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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Finance Ministers Committee Meets in Doha

NC0812120090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 8 Dec (WAKH)—The quadripartite committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] finance ministers opened its meetings here this morning. The meeting was chaired by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari interior minister and acting finance and oil minister.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has stated that this committee was formed following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which created an adverse economic situation.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, he said this invasion displaced thousands of people of various nationalities from Kuwait and disrupted the economies of and main sources of revenue for several countries that had depended on the Gulf states, particulary Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to sustain their economies. He added that a number of countries incurred economic losses and will be subjected to an economic crisis if no assistance is extended to them. He noted that this committee was formed to correspond to the international consensus to assist these countries, particulary since they have sided with the just cause.

He pointed out that the purpose of the committee meetings in Doha is to review developments and prepare a report on the committee's work to be submitted to the GCC leaders. He noted that there is full coordination and cooperation between this committee and other international committees concerned with the damage caused by the Gulf crisis, adding that a meeting was held in Rome on 5 November at which the GCC committee was represented.

He pointed out that a joint meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council and the Committee for Economic and Financial Cooperation will be held this evening to discuss the overall economic course of the GCC as well as related developments and issues, particularly the need to reconsider the GCC's economic march.

Foreign, Finance Ministers Arrive

NC0812193390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 8 Dec (WAKH)—The foreign and finance ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states arrived in Doha tonight to attend the 37th session of the GCC ministerial council which will prepare for the 11th session of the GCC higher council and to attend the meeting of the joint financial and economic cooperation committee which will convene here later today.

After his arrival, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal emphasized the importance of the GCC summit, particularly in these circumstances in which the fraternal state of Kuwait is languishing under the yoke of the brutal Iraqi occupation.

He expressed his belief that the resolutions which the GCC summit will adopt will tackle this problem. He added that the preparatory meeting will discuss a number of issues, foremost of which is the occupation of Kuwait.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim also arrived in Doha. In an arrival statement, the Bahraini foreign minister emphasized the importance of the Doha summit meeting, particularly in these circumstances in which the GCC leaders are facing important challenges and issues, most important of which is the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. He said that the GCC states have worked and will continue to work toward the liberation of Kuwait by all means, especially now that the last UN Security Council resolution has been issued. He expressed the belief that their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC states will as usual tackle this issue with a spirit of responsibility and honest action. He noted that the foreign ministers will draw up the agenda for the GCC summit meeting.

The United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi also arrived in Doha. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed his happiness at being in Qatar and said: We will meet as GCC foreign ministers in these circumstances and conditions through which the area is passing. We must work assiduously and seriously to prepare for the GCC summit meeting. He expressed his confidence that the summit results will be for the benefit of the area's people.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and Ibrahim Bin-Hammud al-Sabhi, secretary general of the higher committee for conferences, also arrived in Doha. [passage omitted]

Ministerial Meeting Opens

NC0912113790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 9 Dec (WAKH)—The 37th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council opened here this morning under the chairmanship of Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir. The meeting is in preparation for the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council.

In an opening address, al-Khatir said this session is of particular importance because it is being held amid difficult circumstances and in the face of blatant challenges following the aggression against and occupation of the territory of sisterly Kuwait, a GCC member state. He

noted that this represents a brutal aggression against all GCC member states, all world countries, and international law and order.

The Qatari minister pointed out that Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait constitutes a blatant challenge to the will of the international community, as represented by the resolutions of the United Nations, Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization. He noted that this sinful occupation constitutes an act of defiance of the international will in general and a flagrant violation of the independence and sovereignty of the GCC member states in particular. He stressed that it is the duty of the GCC member states to confront this aggression collectively and with all their resources until Kuwait is liberated, its legitimate government led by Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah is reinstated, and the courageous Kuwaiti people return to their homeland.

The Qatari minister pointed out that events have proved and underscored the importance of the GCC and the need to expedite the establishment of its defense, political, and economic structures. He stressed that the lesson to be learned from this occupation is that the GCC must reconsider the defense policy of its member states and strengthen their military capabilities. He also emphasized the principle of self-reliance, particularly as these countries are located in a region of vital importance for world progress and civilizatioe.

He added that the GCC members are today standing on the threshold of a new century which heralds the birth of a new world order. The East and West will become closer and, now that the cold war has come to an end, the real arena for struggle for mankind's progress and welfare will be shifted to the economic sphere. This new world order will, for better or worse, cast its shadow on the Gulf region. The GCC must, therefore, understand the requirements of the age and prepare to catch up with the developments of this new world order and contribute toward shaping it in accordance with their values, culture, and heritage.

Concluding his address, the Qatari foreign minister paid tribute to the intifadah of the heroic Palestinian people and stressed the GCC's continued support for this intifadah until victory is achieved.

The foreign ministers of the GCC member states then held their first working session to discuss the Gulf crisis resulting from Iraq's brutal aggression against and occupation of Kuwait and the threat this has posed to regional and international security and stability. The conferees will also discuss the other issues related to consolidating and promoting the advance of the GCC.

Meeting Ends; Chairman Comments

NC1012103990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 10 Dec (WAKH)—The 37th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council, held to prepare for the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council, concluded here today under Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir, chairman of the current session.

Speaking after the meeting, al-Khatir said that Iraq's brutal occupation of the State of Kuwait and its political and economic repercussions were the main topics discussed by the council. He added that the Ministerial Council will resume its current session when it meets again one or two days before the GCC summit convenes. He noted that some measures had been outlined to tackle the crisis but have still to be finalized. He said there is a framework for political, economic, and legal measures, which will take its final form in the next few days.

Asked if the GCC member states will take part in the forthcoming U.S.-Iraqi dialogue, al-Khatir said this dialogue complements the Security Council resolutions, adding that the GCC members have an indirect role to play in the dialogue, which seeks to find a solution to this crisis. He added: We want and seek a solution to the crisis and welcome a peaceful end to it. He noted that the dialogue between Baghdad and Washington will revolve around this topic, and he welcomed the U.S. intitiative in this respect. He added: The military option has not been ruled out, but we hope that the crisis will be resolved peacefully.

Referring to Iraq's release of the foreign hostages, the Qatari minister described this step as positive and (?hoped) it would be followed by other steps on Iraq's part to resolve the crisis.

Asked about U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that the United States would participate in a defense system in the region, Mubarak al-Khatir pointed out that security arrangements are now under study and that future circumstances will determine their nature and who will be party to them.

Asked if there is movement to set up a Gulf military force [words indistinct] are ideas on the table.

Regarding the Qatari working paper discussed by the Ministerial Council yesterday, the Qatari foreign minister said the paper contains a series of proposals for future security arrangements on both the Arab and Gulf levels and [words indistinct] future on current circumstances. The paper also deals with various other issues and constitutes an assessment of the GCC's march in recent years, he added.

The Qatari foreign minister emphasized that a study to adopt measures that could strengthen the cohesion of the GCC is under consideration. He pointed out that there will be a comprehensive review of the GCC march, including the economic aspect.

Asked if the council had discussed the possibility of holding a dialogue between the GCC and Iraq, he said this topic was not specifically addressed at these meetings.

He was then asked about the important issues to be discussed at the upcoming GCC summit regarding the

military committees, he said there are ideas in this respect, including some related to the issue of (?defense), security, and military industrialization.

Al-Khatir said that there is absolutely no thought of giving any concessions to the Iraqi regime, noting Kuwait's demands for compensation from Iraq once the crisis is over.

Communications Meeting Postponed

NC1012140390 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Muscat this afternoon from Doha where he had gone to participate in the 37th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council, which prepared for the 11th GCC summit to be held in Doha on 22 December.

In another development, GCC General Secretariat sources have announced that the meeting of GCC communications ministers, which was scheduled be held tomorrow, has been postponed. The sources said that the new date has not yet been fixed.

Official Previews Aid Program to Arab States

NC1012115490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 10 Dec (WAKH)—Dr. 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, assistant secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] for economic affairs, has announced that there are proposals to allocate between $10 and $15 billion to establish a Gulf aid program for Arab countries. He said at their upcoming summit in Doha, the GCC leaders will decide on the amount of capital, legal shape, and founding members of the proposed aid program.

In a statement to the Qatari paper AL-RAYAH published today, al-Quwayz stressed that the program for Gulf aid to the Arab countries does not come in response to the Iraqi regime's talk about what it calls the distribution of oil wealth, but rather is the result of a comprehensive review of the methods of extending development aid to Arab states by the GCC members. It is also part of the GCC member states' efforts to promote coodination and integration among themselves and to launch a new stage in coordinating their foreign relations, particularly after the Iraqi invasion had revealed a flaw in the methods used by the GCC member states when extending aid to Arab countries.

Dr. al-Quwayz pointed out that the countries to benefit from this program will be determined in accordance with political, technical, and economic guidelines and on the basis of clear-cut strategic criteria, taking into consideration the development gains for the Arab states as well as the benefits for the GCC members themselves.

He noted that at the upcoming summit in Doha, there will be a comprehensive review of the way the unified economic agreement is implemented, with a view to widening its application and increasing the benefits to the citizens. For this purpose, there will be a review of the rules on the ownership of shares and assets and the exercise of professional and other economic activities to facilitate trade, permit more professional and other economic activity, and increase investment opportunities within the GCC countries, he added.

OAPEC Meeting Takes Place in Cairo

UAE Petroleum Minister Arrives

NC0712192890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Yusuf 'Umar Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and natural resources of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt during which he will attend the meetings of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC]. The OAPEC meetings, which will open in Cairo tomorrow, will focus on the policies of that organization in view of the Gulf crisis and its implications.

In an arrival statement, Minister Bin-Yusuf praised Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis and thanked it for hosting the OAPEC meeting.

Bin-Yusuf said that the Gulf crisis is transient and that its effects will soon be over. He added that the oil prices that have climbed so steeply of late will stabilize and return to their normal level.

Chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, welcomed the UAE minister at the airport.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 7 December reports that "The OAPEC Ministerial Council will hold two days of talks in Cairo beginning tomorrow, Saturday. The oil ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Algeria, Libya, and Syria will take part in the talks."]

Meeting Opens 8 Dec

NC0812105690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Meetings of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries began here this morning in the presence of seven Arab oil ministers.

The meeting is being attended by the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, and Syria, as well as Egypt. Representatives of the Algerian and Qatari oil ministers are also attending the meeting, while Iraq is represented by its ambassador in Cairo, Samir Najm. [passage omitted]

Meeting Ends

NC0812173690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] The ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries has stated that the current situation in which the Arab nation finds itself requires the mobilization of all possible efforts and capabilities to confront the crisis. This came in the final communique issued at the end of OAPEC's 45th session which began in Cairo this morning.

OAPEC Secretary General 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Turki conveyed to the Arab ministers the greetings of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his sincere wishes for the Arab nation to overcome its crisis. He added that it has been decided to make Egypt the temporary OAPEC headquarters until the organization returns to its permanent headquarters in Kuwait.

It has also been decided that Bahrain will chair the organization's next session.

The OAPEC secretary general expressed thanks and appreciation to the Egyptian Government and people and chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil for their hospitality.

Temporary Headquarters in Cairo

NC0912061290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2331 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has announced that the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries today decided to establish its temporary headquarters in Egypt until the situation returns to normal in the Gulf and OAPEC returns to its permanent headquarters in Kuwait.

In a statement to MENA, Qandil said that Egypt was honored to chair the OAPEC ministerial council's meeting in 1990. He noted that the goal of this organization is to cement economic cooperation among Arab countries. Qandil said that the Arab ministers were careful to avoid political differences at today's meeting and instead concentrated on the ways to consolidate and enhance the organization's role.

Qandil said that the OAPEC ministers also agreed to upgrade the Arab Oil Institute for Training, which is headquartered in Baghdad. Qandil said: "Sooner or latter, things will return to normal."

Resolutions 'Unanimously' Adopted

NC1012202790 Cairo MENA in English 1907 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec 10 [MENA]—'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, oil and mineral resources minister, today told MENA that the resolutions of OAPEC were unanimously adopted, adding that there were a number of reservations.

The meetings discussed the dimensions of political difference, adding that OAPEC meetings were highly successful as Western and Arab mass media said.

Saudi Oil Minister Departs Cairo 10 Dec

NC1012133590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Saudi Oil Minister Hisham al-Nazir left Cairo this afternoon after taking part in the meetings of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, which were held in Cairo last Saturday.

The Saudi minister commended the outcome of the meeting, adding that resolutions were adopted swiftly with the approval of all the members.

Al-Nazir was seen off by chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

Palestinian Affairs

Inter-Palestinian Differences Examined

NC1112103790 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 10 Dec 90 p 7

[From "The First News" column]

[Excerpt] Khalid al-Hasan, who has been Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] man for a long time in arranging his relations with the Arab Gulf countries, is in seclusion in Morocco and refraining from any political activities for two reasons:

1. His big financial loss because most of his businesses are in Kuwait;

2. Yasir 'Arafat's political stance and his suppport for Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan's relations with the president of the state of Palestine are not very good, particularly after the latest meeting of Fatah Central Council that agreed to call Hani al-Hasan to account for his political moves in visiting Saudi Arabia and Jordan without recourse to the council. When al-Hasan said that he paid the visits on instructions from President 'Arafat, the latter denied that he assigned him to visit these countries. Al-Hasan then walked out of the meeting and stayed home.

Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] also is at odds with Yasir 'Arafat over his stance on the Gulf crisis. While Abu-'Ammar still bets on Iraq, Abu-Mazin believes that the issue is an Iraqi dilemma and a Palestinian embroilment. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Statement Claims Bethlehem Bombing

JN1012180690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

With the escalation of the blessed popular Palestinian intifadah and the initiation of its fourth year and based on our belief in the approach of armed struggle as a path to victory and liberation, one of our groups working inside the occupied homeland planted two explosive charges near the so-called Civil Administration building in Bethlehem, thus breaking the enemy's tight measures. At the time set yesterday evening, 9 December 1990, and when a patrol belonging to the Army of the Zionist enemy was passing, the two explosive charges went off. This led to the killing of one of the enemy soldiers and the wounding of a number of soldiers, two of whom were said to have sustained serious injuries.

Immediately, large numbers of enemy forces were rushed to the scene of the heroic operation and arrested some of the sons of our people who are residents of the area. The enemy forces also clamped a curfew on the town and other neighboring villages. The curfew is still in force up until the moment this statement was prepared.

While hailing the masses of our people's glorious intifadah on its fourth year, we in the PFLP-GC renew the pledge to pursue the path of armed struggle and face the enemy's reppressive measures by dealing the severest blows to the heart of the Zionist military institution. This is a pledge made to the martyrs of our nation to pursue struggle until the liberation of man and land.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Bethlehem Mayor on Intifadah, 'Bad' Conditions

JN0812195390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1719 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by correspondent Ahmad Birru; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj: Today, the Palestinian intifadah begins its fourth year. You are known for your support for dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Now, after all the recent developments, can you tell us how this dialogue stands now?

[Frayj] I resolutely and confidently declare that the present Israeli Government has no intention whatsoever of talking to the Palestinian people or of withdrawing from one square centimeter of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli Government is continuing to build settlements. Through Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, this government recently announced that the Israeli borders extend from the sea, that is, the Mediterranean Sea, to the River Jordan. Indeed, I am not sure if he meant the River Jordan or another river.

The conditions here are very bad, but we as Palestinians must continue our intifadah and challenge Israel with peace. We must challenge Israel with peace in all fields and on all levels, because this increases world countries' recognition of our rights. If we take into account the recent UN General Assembly resolutions this week, we find them unanimous with the exception of U.S. and Israeli opposition. It is the same if I say Israel and America or America and Israel, because it seems there is no difference between the two.

[Birru] Are there contacts going on with labor figures or any other leftist people?

[Frayj] In fact, I personally am very busy as a mayor and chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. I am not holding any meetings with the Peace Now Movement, the rightists, or leftists. However, I sometimes hold contacts and meetings here and there, and I am certain that Israel intends to remain in the settlements, especially after the Soviet Union opened the door for Jewish emigration.

[Birru] The number of settlers in the occupied territories has crossed the 100,000 mark. The Israelis say that this makes the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank out of the question, especially following the increasing number of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

[Frayj] Brother Ahmad, the truth is that the settlements in the West Bank are cities, built in a most modern way with stone and cement. They are built to last, and are supplied with all utilities—water, sewage systems, telephones, electricity, and streets. They are well-established towns. There are 150 settlements—that is, towns and villages—in the West Bank from the north to the south. South of Bethlehem there is a city [name indistinct] whose size is equal to that of Bethlehem. This city will take large areas of Bethlehem land. We as Arab inhabitants of the West Bank own less than 10 percent of the land. Most of the land is either closed or prohibited military zones under the Israeli army, or under construction for more settlements. Settlement-building is rising, and so is West Bank water consumption.

[Birru] Because of the intifadah, Israel is increasing the number of obstacles to Palestinians working in Israel, and the Gulf problem has negatively affected the assistance which the Palestinians used to send to their relatives. Can you give us a picture of the conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories three years after the intifadah?

[Frayj] The economic situation in the West Bank in general and the Bethlehem area in particular is very bad. Unemployment here is [word indistinct] amounting to 30 percent of the West Bank work force. Israel is now drawing up plans to do without most of the Arab laborers working in Israel [word indistinct] have serious material, economic, and social effects. Assistance from our people

in the Arabian Peninsula is now nonexistent. Remittances that we used to obtain from brothers in the Arab states through the Cairo-Amman Bank in the West Bank have dropped by 70 or 80 percent, and could reach zero. Most establishments, hospitals, and municipalities are on the verge of bankruptcy and are liable to cease operations.

Regarding your question about Kuwait and the Palestinian situation, I frankly say that any occupation on any pretext is unacceptable. We as Palestinian people do not accept or condone any people's occupation of other peoples. We are the people who have suffered the most from a foreign occupation. We seek to liberate ourselves by all means, and therefore, we do not support any occupation. If war breaks out in the Gulf, God forbid, then it will lead to the worst consequences on the Palestinian people in particular.

[Bierru] Apparently, the United States intends to agree on discussing a resolution at the UN Security Council on holding an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. How do you view the new U.S. position?

[Frayj] I believe that the U.S. position, which voted against all the five UN resolutions this week, is bargaining in a manner humiliating to all Arab peoples without exception, particularly the Arab peoples who asked the U.S. armies to come to protect them. I have heard that the Israeli prime minister will meet with the U.S. envoy at the United Nations today, before the convening of the UN Security Council session. I have questions and reservations on the U.S. position. Believe me, it would be better for the Arab envoys to stop begging the UN Security Council. This is because begging the UN Security Council is humiliating to us. The Arab states have been begging for a resolution for a month now, and the Americans are procrastinating and slighting us. How long will this go on? The Arab peoples in all the Arab states should realize that the Arab peoples are begging for a resolution, and that the United States is dictating its will on the United Nations and the UN Security Council. It is better for us to save face and safeguard our dignity.

[Bierru] So what's to be done now?

[Frayj] What's to be done? We are pursuing our intifadah, and we are continuing with our unity and to our endeavors to win the support of world public opinion, particularly U.S. public opinion. We should intensify our efforts to gain the support of the U.S. public opinion. The U.S. public played a great role in America's withdrawal from Vietnam. Therefore, we should exert pressure to gain the support of all the European, the U.S., the Australian, and Canadian peoples, especially since the Palestinian people accept the principle of peaceful coexistence with Israel, UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and 338, and the principle of negotiations with Israel within the framework of an international conference. We also agree to conclude a full and comprehensive peace treaty with Israel and the Israeli people. We also should do our best to convince the Palestinian people that as Palestinian people, we desire a peaceful coexistence with the Israeli people based on good-neighborliness and equal rights. Each people should live within the borders of its recognized state in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 242.

[Bierru] Ilyas Frayj, thank you.

[Frayj] Thank you.

Reportage on Faruq Qaddumi's Visit to Cuba

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For reportage on the visit by Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO Political and International Affairs Department of the PLO Executive Committee, to Cuba, including reports on his talks with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, please see the Cuba section of the 10 December Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Algeria

Bendjedid Scheduled To Begin Mideast Tour 11 Dec

LD1112112690 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, 11/12/90 (APS)—Head of State, Chadli Bendjedid will pay a working a friendly visit to the Middle East starting from today. In favor of this tour, which will lead him to the capitals of a number of brotherly countries, Chadli Bendjedid who constantly kept in touch with his counterparts about the situation of crisis prevailing in the region, intends to carry on his consultations with them and to continue the efforts of Algeria, for the welfare of all the people of this region as well as for the safeguard of the higher interests of the Arab region.

Calls Other Arab Leaders

LD1112112290 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, 11/12/90 (APS)—On the eve of his visit to the Middle East, President Chadli Bendjedid had phone talks with his counterparts of the member countries of the Union of Arab Maghreb (UMA), King Hassan II of Morocco, Tunisian President, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Mauritanian head of state, Mouauia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya and the head of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi.

It is worth recalling that the head of state will go to the capitals of a number of Arab brother countries to continue the efforts of Algeria for the well being of the peoples of the area and for the preservation of the supreme interests of the Arab nation.

Hamrouche Government Faces No Confidence Vote

LD1112090390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Deputies at the National People's Assembly are expected to hold a vote of confidence in the government of Mouloud Hamrouche over the government statement of general policy that was presented for discussion by the assembly during the past two days. Prime Minister Hamrouche had asked the nation's deputies to vote on the statement, but the voting was postponed until today as was announced by the speaker of the National People's Assembly in accordance with assembly bylaws.

Our colleague, Noureddine Boutakia, who has been closely following the proceedings of the National People's Assembly, reports:

A few days before Hamrouche delivered his government statement on general policy, unusual movements were witnessed within the National People's Assembly. A group of deputies [words indistinct]. Oddly enough, this change of attitudes coincided with the statement made by the president of the republic to the Algerian News Agency [APS] in which he affirmed that he felt nothing would be gained from the formation of a transitional government as was advocated by several political groups. The president's statement is tantamount to a renewal of his confidence in the Hamrouche government, and that he wishes it to continue with its reforms.

As regards the censure motion, Article 26 of the Constitution provides that the censure motion cannot be accepted unless signed by 40 deputies, and cannot be valid unless approved by 190 other deputies as specified in Article 127 of the Constitution. As far as I learned, this has not been the case.

During the two-day debate there was a great deal of discussion within the assembly, with some deputies supporting the government and others opposing it. This prompted Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrocuche to ask for a vote of confidence in his government in accordance with the assembly's bylaws and Article 80 of the Constitution. This will take place this afternoon. [passage indistinct]

Egypt

Coverage of Syrian Prime Minister's Visit

Al-Zu'bi Interviewed Before Talks

NC0912205190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1657 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi has asserted that any joint action between Syria and Egypt, whether on the bilateral or on pan-Arab level, is bound to be for the good of all Arabs.

In an exclusive interview to be published on 10 December in AL-AHRAM with Ahmad Nafi', director of Arab affairs, he noted that both Syria and Egypt have always been a source of power, the mainstay of defense, the wall against which the enemies' onslaughts founder, and the bastion from which attacks on the Arabs' enemies are launched.

He said that the first meeting of the higher Syrian-Egyptian joint committee means that that the two countries have returned to their natural posture and that hands are joined to enable the two countries to play an active and effective role in the service of Arab causes.

He was asked about the most important projects to be the themes of the new march and about his concept of achieving economic integration between the two countries. He pointed out that the talks between the two countries' leaders were intended to translate cooperation between the two countries into practical measures and to establish a timetable for cooperation, coordination, and integration in the fields of industry, agriculture, electricity, energy, housing, transportation, and communications.

He explained that cooperation between the two countries will include the petroleum, trade, education, health, culture, tourism, and information sectors along with unification of various regulations, laws, and charters to enhance cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

He said that the first meeting of the higher joint committee of the two countries, due to open tomorrow, will provide an opportunity for detailed study and discussion of all projects and proposals.

Asked about the significance of the joint Syrian-Egyptian-(?Saudi) meetings, he said that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has created far-reaching and complicated dangers that require Cairo, Damascus, and Riyadh to bear a huge responsibility to enable the Arab stand to absorb the regional and inernational dimensions and the fast-breaking ramifications.

He affirmed that these meetings express a joint resolve to embody a united Arab will concerning the Gulf crisis according to the resolutions of the Cairo extraordinary Arab summit and the international community's tendencies.

Commenting on last month's meeting in Geneva between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President George Bush, the Syrian prime minister said that at this meeting President al-Asad explained Syria's strategic view of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Syria's view on distinguishing between international terrorism and the legality of the peoples' nationalist struggle, and Syria's stand on the Gulf crisis.

With regard to the resumption of relations between Syria and Britain, he noted that the resumption of these relations clearly reinforces Syria's stand toward fundamental Arab causes, foremost of which are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

Regarding the process of national reconciliation in Lebanon and the possibility of achieving a solution to the Lebanese problem, the Syrian prime minister affirmed that Syria has worked for many years to end the civil war, to provide all the means to enable the Lebanese to pursue a course of national reconciliation, and to enable all the factions of the Lebanese people to manifest their will for unity.

He said that Syria could not take the place of the Lebanese in working out a solution but that its efforts focused on providing an atmosphere of security, understanding, and dialogue. He said Syria shouldered heavy burdens and offered sacrifices for this purpose.

He noted that the current steps to evacuate the armed militias from Greater Beirut make up a sound course for implementing the other provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement and for enabling the Lebanese legitimacy to impose its authority over all Lebanese territory and to struggle for the liberation of southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

The Syrian prime minister expressed his happiness over Lebanon's beginning to recover from its ordeal and to move toward national reconciliation with continued Syrian assistance to the legitimate authority to reunite Lebanon and to reestablish its affiliation with the Arab nation.

Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC1012104890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a ministerial delegation which is paying a three-day visit to Egypt. Al-Zu'bi, who will chair the Syrian side at the first session of the higher Syrian-Egyptian joint committee, was received by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The talks between the Egyptian and Syrian delegations are scheduled to begin this evening under the two countries' prime ministers.

Al-Zu'bi, Sidqi Comment on Ties

NC1012120090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi today stressed the great importance of the political role played by Egypt and Syria. He said that their adoption of a unified stand underlines the extreme importance of joint Arab action. He said that the Egyptian-Syrian agreement constitutes the nucleus for Arab action at a stage characterized by contradictions as a result of the Gulf crisis and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He asserted that Syria looks forward to further cementing its ties with Egypt proceeding from the foundations established by Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that the visit to Egypt by the Syrian prime minister and a large ministerial delegation comes in the wake of great advancement in bilateral relations since President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Egypt in June, when the two presidents decided to establish the higher Egyptian-Syrian joint committee. Sidqi said that relations between the two countries are long-standing and excellent and will be strengthened even more as a result of continued meetings between the leaders of the two countries. He emphasized the need to take practical and positive steps to unify the Arab ranks to ensure a clear Arab vision of the future amid major international changes. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Comments on Meeting

NC1012195190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1744 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—The higher Egyptian-Syrian joint committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi this evening. The committee discussed a number of draft agreements to organize cooperation between the two countries in the economic, technical, planning, and trade fields.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced this at the end of the two-hour session.

He said that the committee showed interest in the area of trade and that agreement was reached to continue work under the trade exchange agreement signed between the two countries in 1969 and its addendums for a transitional period until a new trade agreement has been concluded.

The committee also discussed the renewal for another year of the equal trade deal signed last February and of increasing its volume to $200 million, to be shared equally by the two sides, as well as allowing the Syrian and Egyptian private sectors to conclude equal trade deals on Egyptian and Syrian products. [passage omitted]

The two sides decided to promote cooperation in the food industries, including the sugar, cement, building material, engineering, and metallurgical industries. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that, at the outset of the meeting, Dr. Sidqi and al-Zu'bi spoke about the age-old special and unique ties between the two countries and peoples. They referred to their joint struggle and strife, and noted that the unity between the two countries has been a unique experience in contemporary Arab history and that the two peoples have held similar positions both in the past and at present.

The information minister added that the two prime ministers reviewed the joint march since the meeting of Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad, and asserted that the formation and meeting of the committee reflects the political leadership's concern in the two fraternal countries.

He said that the two prime ministers explained that the Egyptian and Syrian reaction to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is a continuation of the principled and firm stands of both Egypt and Syria in times of crises and in every matter concerning the Arab nation's interests.

He noted that the higher committee's meeting falls within the conviction of the need to propel the joint march and to initiate a new phase of cooperation, integration, and linkage in all fields. [passage omitted]

The information minister said the two countries' ministers noted the importance of eliminating narrow views and short-term regional interests so that joint action may be characterized by farsightedness and the bypassing of limited interests for wider ones that would serve the Arab nation with a view to upgrading political, economic, and social relations.

Concluding his statement, al-Sharif said that Dr. Sidqi and Eng. al-Zu'bi exchanged views on international developments and the changes in the political, social, and economic fields.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Mubarak

NC1112112890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has emphasized that relations between Syria and Egypt are steadily growing politically, economically, and in the information field. He said that work is proceeding in accordance with instructions from Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad. In a statement after his meeting with President Mubarak, al-Zu'bi said that the two countries' getting together constitutes a political, economic, and pan-Arab weight in the Arab world. This, he said, encourages greater coordination than at any time before.

Al-Zu'bi said that one cannot go ahead of events, noting that in light of the Iraqi statements on continuing the occupation of Kuwait, Syria does not want to be pessimistic. He asserted that Syria's stand has been clear from the outset of the crisis: Syria opposes the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and has called and still calls for Iraqi withdrawal as quickly as possible and for the restoration of the legitimate government. He pointed out that the contacts among Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and various other Arab countries aim at this purpose.

Al-Zu'bi pointed out that there is cooperation between Egypt and Libya and between Syria and Libya and that this coordination, integration, and cooperation among the three countries will reflect on the march of Arab action. He said that the issue of convening a Syrian-Egyptian-Libyan summit has not been discussed, stressing that what counts at this stage is coordination and constant movement. He noted that bilateral meetings between the presidents of the three countries take place continually. Al-Zu'bi visited 10 Ramadan city today, inspected the Oriental Weavers Company, and heard a report from the company's production director.

Details of Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Talks Reported

PM1112094490 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5 Dec 90 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Agreement Between Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi on Guarantees for Egyptian Nationals in Libya"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that, during their recent meeting in Tobruk, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expressed to Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the need for Libya to provide a series of real guarantees to enable Cairo to allow a million Egyptians to emigrate and settle in the new al-Kufrah community with a view to establishing a productive agricultural community.

The purpose of President Mubarak's request is to prevent a repetition of the tragedy of the Egyptian workers' expulsion from Libya in 1986. At that time they were

denied their rights. The Libyan colonel agreed to President Mubarak's request and promised to provide guarantees that would fully safeguard the new workers' rights if anything disrupts their stay in Libya.

At the same time Colonel al-Qadhdhafi emphasized to President Mubarak the need for Egypt to nominate an Egyptian figure who enjoys political influence in the Egyptian and Arab contexts to assume the post of Arab League secretary general. He promised that Libya would back Egypt's nomination and seek the Arab Maghreb states' approval of the appointment of an Egyptian as Arab League secretary general.

'Abd-al-Majid Sends Messages to Security Council

NC0912131790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent messages today to the permanent members of the UN Security Council and Yugoslavia, current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, on developments in the Gulf and Mediterranean regions and the Egyptian viewpoint on these developments.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Farid Sayf-al-Nasr delivered the messages to the ambassadors of these countries in Cairo.

Ghali Announces Postponement of Somalia Conference

NC0812141590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that agreement has been reached with Italy to postpone the roundtable conference on national reconciliation in Somalia. He said this decision was made following contacts with Somali parties which requested the postponement, as they needed more time to prepare. He said that the Somali president has been apprised of this.

Dr. Ghali said that Egypt will maintain its contacts with the Somali parties and countries concerned and will continue to coordinate with Italy so that the conference can be held with the aim of attaining national reconciliation and peace in Somalia and guaranteeing its territorial integrity. He said this reflects Egypt's continued concern for the prosperity of fraternal Somalia.

The Somali ambassador to Cairo has affirmed that Somalia supports Egyptian and Italian efforts to attain national reconciliation in his country. He said Somalia is not setting any conditions and hopes that its sovereignty, independence, and unity will be safeguarded.

Ghali Receives Israeli Party Leader

NC0812150590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1439 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received El'azar Granot, leader of the Israeli United Workers Party, who is visiting Cairo.

Ghali affirmed during the meeting that the developments in the Gulf crisis do not detract from the constant attention that Egypt gives the Palestinian issue for which a just solution must be found.

Ghali also noted the deteriorating conditions from which the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza suffer.

Source Denies Report on Alleged Factory Explosion

NC0912193490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] A responsible security source has denied a report today by the Israeli Hebrew-language radio that an explosion occurred in a Cairo factory, shattering windows of nearby houses. The source affirmed that this report is absolutely void of truth.

IBRD Delegation Arrives in Cairo 19 Dec

NC1012140590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—A mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD], led by Executive Director Dr. William Taylor, arrived in Cairo today on a visit that will last several days. While here, the IBRD mission will hold talks with a number of economic officials in Egypt on structural reform. [passage omitted]

Saudi Information Minister Departs After Visit

NC0912174190 Cairo MENA in English 1709 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec 9 (MENA)—Saudi Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir left here today following a few days' visit to Egypt during which he attended the meetings of the follow-up committee of the information ministers of Islamic countries and the tripartite meeting of the Egyptian-Syrian and Saudi foreign and information ministers.

He said that he discussed with his Egyptian counterpart Safwat al-Sharif cooperation between the two countries in information domains.

Al-Sharif, who saw the Saudi guest off at the airport, told reporters that the secretariat general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference will fix the date for the forthcoming meeting of the information ministers of Islamic countries. Saudi Arabia will preside over the follow-up committee for another year namely, till November 1991, he added.

Zaire's Minister of Defense Arrives for Visit

NC0912195990 Cairo MENA in English 1924 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec 9 (MENA)—The Zairian minister of defence, Mavua Mudina, and the chief of the civil guard who is in charge of the interior ministry, arrived here tonight on a five-day visit.

In an arrival statement, Mavua Mudina said the visit aims at participating in the graduation of a batch of Zairian students who have ended their study in the Egyptian police academy.

Pact Signed With India on Nuclear Cooperation

NC1012124290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1121 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and India have signed an agreement on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in several fields, including solving the food problem in Egypt and radiation technology in medicine and industry. This was stated by Dr. Raja'i Zaghlul, an expert at the nuclear energy authority and member of the Consultative Council, following his return from a two-week official visit to India. He said that he signed the agreement on behalf of the Egyptian nuclear energy authority after intensive talks in which Egyptian consul in Bombay Hilal Nashid participated. The agreement was signed for the Indian side by B.K. Ayyengar, chairman of the nuclear energy authority.

Dr. Zaghlul said that the agreement, which will take effect in January, will be valid for five years after which it can be renewed. He added that under the agreement, the Indian side will cooperate with Egyptian experts to increase the capacity of the Egyptian nuclear reactor from two to five megawatts. The two sides will also cooperate in the field of agriculture, particularly on increasing grain and maize yields through the exchange of experts, particularly young scientists. [passage omitted]

Libya

Iraq Asked To Supply U.S. Hostages for Trade

LD1012120190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] London, 10 Dec (JANA)—London AL-ARAB learned from informed sources that there are currently contacts between Tripoli and Baghdad to transport a number of American citizens to Libya for the Jamahiriyah to host. They would then be exchanged for Libyan citizens the United States kidnapped from Chad and transported the day before yesterday to Lagos in a pirate operation planned by Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

A prominent French diplomat told an AL-ARAB correspondent in Paris that the transportation of the kidnapped Libyans to Lagos was a temporary U.S. step until Washington could find a neighboring country of Libya (?to accommodate) those kidnapped persons, and then commit actions hostile to Libya in their names.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Bendjedid Discuss U.S. 'Piracy'

LD1112110190 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] JANA has learned that contacts have been made between the brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] and President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the sister Republic of Algeria and president of the current session of the Arab Maghreb Union's [AMU] Presidential Council.

These contacts dealt with the tour of President Chadli in his capacity as president of the current session of the AMU Presidential Council of the Arab-East in an attempt to find an Arab solution to the Kuwait crisis. During these contacts between the brother leader and President Benjedid, the acts of piracy by France and by the United States, and their violation of international law and the third Geneva treaty by abducting Arab Libyan nationals against their will and transporting them to an unkonwn destination, were discussed.

The agency also learned that President Chadli Benjedid, in his capacity as president of the current session of the AMU Presidential Council, will contact the concerned parties with regard to the question of the abduction of Arab Libyan nationals as they are Arab Maghreb Union nationals.

Iraqi Ship Supplied With Food, Medicine

LD1012185990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Dec (JANA)—The Iraqi ship Ibn Khaldun has been supplied at Tripoli port with food and medicines as humanitarian aid from the Libyan Arab people to their brothers, the Iraqi people.

The ship, which arrived at Tripoli port yesterday, was loaded with large quantities of food, medical supplies, and milk to help ease the sufferings of the Iraqi brothers as a result of the economic blockade imposed since the outbreak of the Kuwaiti crisis.

Tripoli port authorities have stated the ship was loaded with quantities of sugar, milk, flour, and various medical supplies.

Mauritania

Low Voter Turnout Reported in 7 Dec Elections

AB0912155890 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 8 (AFP)—The turnout was around only 20 percent in the Mauritanian capital in Friday's local elections and up to 60 percent elsewhere in

the country, according to partial results released Saturday. All nine constituencies in Nouakchott were won in the first round of voting by the electoral list of a former minister, Dah Ould Cheikh, according to the early results. Nouakchott, with an electorate of 230,000, accounts for about a quarter of Mauritania's population.

Elsewhere lists headed by another former minister, Messoud Ould Boulkheir, and by Abdrahmane Ould Ghadhi, who is said to have support among younger people, were still in the running for next Friday's second round. No politiclal parties are allowed in the Arab Berber-dominated West African country that has been run by Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's Military Committee for National Salvation since a coup in 1978. At stake in the poll, therefore, are the "tendencies" backing the various candidates.

At the beginning of the campaign, the government has the right to strike off any list it does not like without explanation. Observers said this usually happens when a list has too strong an ethnic or political character.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Sends Congratulations to Chad's Deby

EA0712175890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 December (SUNA)—RCC [Revolution Command Council] Chairman General 'Umar al-Bashir has sent a cable to Mr. Idriss Deby, head of the Chadian National Salvation Movement, on the occasion of his assuming the post of the president of the Council of State for Chad. Gen. al-Bashir in his cable has voiced the congratulations of the Government and people of Sudan for the Chadian people, confirming the readiness of the Sudanese Government to boost the historic relations linking Sudan and Chad in the various domains.

On the other side, Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has sent a cable to Mr. Soungui Ahmad, the Chadian foreign minister, on the occasion of his nomination as foreign minister in the new government of the national salvation in Chad. Foreign Minister Sahlul has expressed Sudan's readiness to fully cooperate with the new government in Chad in the interest of the people of the two countries.

'Dissolved Parties' in Sudan Before Deby Takeover

EA0812224090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA)—AL-INQADH AL-WATANI published here yesterday said that a delegation from the remnants of the dissolved parties led by Nasr al-Din al-Hadi al-Mahdi of the dissolved Ummah Party was on a visit to Ndjamena before the collapse of the government of deposed President Hissein Habre. The paper added that Nasr al-Din al-Hadi left Ndjamena for London.

The paper clarified that Habre's government had agreed that John Garang could open an office for the opposition in the Chadian capital. He had also permitted the sectarian opposition abroad to come to Chad to work against the National Salvation Revolution. It said that the New Popular Salvation Government in Chad had closed agent John Garang's office in Ndjamena. It had confirmed that it would not allow any presence hostile to Sudan to operate from its territory.

RCC Member Gives Estimate on Food Shortage

EA0812082090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0928 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 December (SUNA)—Colonel Salah al-Karrar, member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and head of the Economic Committee, has announced that the food shortage in the country is estimated at 1,000,000 tonnes of cereals in light of the current season's harvest assessment. In a statement to the press, Col. al-Karrar attributed the shortage to the fall in rainfall levels in regions where sorghum, sesame, and other cereals are grown.

The Revolutionary Command Council member also confirmed that the government has taken all necessary measures to relieve the food shortage, noting that additional areas will be cultivated with sorghum and wheat during the current summer season. The government is also planning to import cereals from outside in order to cover the country's food needs.

Bahrain

Baghdad Radio Reports Welcome of Hostages' Release

JN0912073390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] The State of Bahrain has welcomed leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative allowing Iraq's guests to travel or stay in Iraq as they wish.

Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah termed the initiative as a positive step toward resolving the Gulf crisis.

During a meeting with an Algerian press delegation yesterday, the Bahraini prime minister said that Bahrain sees this initiative as a good sign of the requirements of peace.

Prime Minister on Conditions for Peace in Gulf

NC0912114290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 9 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, has underlined the firm position of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] member states and the countries that support them in rejecting the Iraqi occupation of the sisterly State of Kuwait and in insisting on ending the occupation and restoring legitimacy as a basic condition for the consolidation of security and stability in the Arab Gulf region. The prime minister made this statement while chairing a regular cabinet session today. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Addresses Citizens on Human Rights Day

LD0912221490 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah today addresses a message to the Kuwaiti people and the world on the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights which falls today Monday [as heard].

Speaks on Human Rights

LD1012222190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1939 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Address by Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on the occasion of International Human Rights Day; place and date not given; from the "State of Kuwait television message"—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, and prayers and peace be upon our master Muhammad, his kinfolk, and companions.

Almighty God said in his holy book: We have honored the children of Adam and carried them on land and sea and provided them with good things and preferred them greatly over many of those We created.

God says the truth. This honoring by Almighty God is the basic source of all the principles of human rights for which the world is today struggling in order to entrench them, protect them, and defend them. It was also for their sake that 10 December of every year has been fixed for the world to celebrate International Human Rights Day. This embodies the agreement of the world states to assert the value of man and to protect his rights and properties. It is an important civilized (?move) that reflects the progress of human societies through the ages.

As a benediction from God upon his servants, last year was marked by important events in this direction: the end of the Cold War, the limiting of weapons of destruction, and the realization of a true and constructive rapprochement between the main forces of the world for the good of all mankind.

At a time when the world is witnessing such important changes aimed at saving the dignity of man and at protecting his rights, we find that exactly the opposite is happening in the shadow of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Since the perfidious Iraqi invasion, human rights in all forms have been violated daily in Kuwait, with execution without trial, mass killing of [word indistinct] children, random arrests, and the physical and mental torture of prisoners, with hundreds of innocent victims. This is in addition to the terror practiced by the Iraqi regime against hundreds of thousands of citizens and foreign residents in Kuwait to drive them out of their home, after plundering them and after taking over their properties and homes, with the aim of altering the demographic structure of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

What is happening at the hands of the Iraqi regime in Kuwait and Iraq is contrary to the teaching of our holy Islamic religion: upholding the sanctities of man, protecting his rights, and showing him mercy and compassion.

God Almighty had forbidden man to mete injustice on his fellow man. He ordered that injustice be redressed. God said: Tyrants have no supporters. Our Prophet, may the peace and blessing of God be upon him, said: Fear injustice. Injustice is a dark abyss on the day of judgment.

The fact that the states of the world did stand alongside our just issue is a rejection of man's aggression against his fellow man and a confirmation of the principles, values, and conventions which protect his rights against abuse and violation.

We call upon the states of the world for more cohesion and opposition to tyranny in all its forms; that they demand an immediate stop to all the barbarous acts committed by the Saddam regime against the Kuwaiti people; and that all states strive toward achieving a realization of international will embodied in the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate government to

Kuwait, and payment of reparations for the losses that had been inflicted on Kuwait as a result of the treacherous occupation.

On this occasion, I extend to the Kuwait people, who are standing fast in the face of aggression and who are adhering to their soil and the soil of their fathers, a salute of appreciation and gratitude. I am living through it with you, I suffer your pain and I await the hour of relief. You and all the brothers who are living outside their homeland should arm themselves with faith and reliance on Almighty God and should remember His words: And we shall try you until we test those among you who strive their utmost and persevere in patience, and we shall try your reported mettle.

Peace and the blessing of God be upon you.

Minister Calls Bush Talks Offer 'Very Clever'

JN0912220790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 90 p 2

[By Safwat Abu-Talib]

[Text] Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has said the recent U.S. initiative is very clever indeed and is considered a final warning to Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait. If he shows intransigence and refuses to withdraw, he added, the use of any option will be acceptable to the world and public opinion.

The Kuwaiti information minister added that his country requests Saddam Husayn to implement the United Nations and Arab League resolutions by withdrawing from Kuwait and restoring legitimacy so that the region can be spared dangers that would hamper all development in the Arab nation.

The Kuwaiti information minister announced that the United States will not negotiate with Saddam on the future of Kuwait. He said the U.S. President reaffirmed in a telephone conversation with the amir that the U.S. Administration adheres to the need for Iraq's withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy and that the U.S.-Iraqi talks are not negotiations, but talks in which the United States will officially ask Iraq—in the presence of all media—to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Ya'qub stressed that his government has been calling for the release of hostages from the first day Kuwait was occupied, and, therefore, the Kuwaiti Government and people have very much welcomed their release.

He also said Saddam Husayn has destroyed Kuwait and all features of development, which our Egyptian brothers contributed to. He said: We take pride in the fact that every scientific and cultural edifice in our country was built with the honorable Egyptian brothers' labor. By the hands of the Egyptian brothers, Kuwait's civilization was built. If God wills, and thanks to the understanding and coordination between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti leaders, and by the hands of the brave Egyptian Army, Kuwait will be liberated and our Arab nation will regain its pride.

Concluding his statements to AL-JUMHURIYAH, the Kuwaiti information minister said the Iraqi troops occupying Kuwait have begun a large-scale campaign to arrest and expel Palestinians in Kuwait after they had served their purpose.

Foreign Minister Rules Out Land Talks With Iraq

LD1012111990 London KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, 10 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, stressed in an interview published here today that: "Kuwait will not accept any negotiations with Iraq over the Kuwaiti territories, or even regarding leasing these territories."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad condemned the detention of foreign hostages by the president of the Iraqi regime and their stragic use by Iraq. He said: "This can be compared to the style of a cattle dealer who concludes his deals by the sale of his cattle."

The senior Kuwait official made this statement in a interview to YOMIURI SHIMBUN correspondent Takashi Yokoyama in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia.

Answering a question on the solidarity of the majority of UN states against Iraq, Shaykh Sabah stressed that: "I have never been pessimistic over recovering our country." In his published statements, he highlighted the ugly acts of Iraq, including the destruction of hospitals, schools, and other public centers in Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad indicated that the Gulf crisis has been a lesson for an increase of defensive capabilities. He said: "First we should consolidate forces not only by Kuwait, but also by the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states. Then we should lay down a security system for the Gulf region. This matter will be at the top of the agenda of the GCC summit scheduled for the end of this month." He stated that even if the Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait without having to resort to war, we will still need five to six years to restore the situation to its pre-invasion state because citizens cannot return to the homeland before the removal of the landmines planted by the Iraqi occupiers.

Says No Bargaining on Borders

PM1012162490 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 6 Dec 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad says: Kuwait's Borders Not Subject to Bargaining"]

[Excerpt] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—The Kuwaiti Government has emphasized anew its unequivocal rejection of any partial solutions based on rewarding the Iraqi aggressor for his aggression. It has also expressed its insistence on an unconditional and complete withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory and on not surrendering a single inch of the homeland's territory.

Commenting on reports carried by the Western media, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday that the Kuwaiti borders that existed before 2 August—that is, before the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—were not subject to bargaining and would not be a subject of negotiation. The Security Council resolutions in that regard are clear and call for an unconditional and complete withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait. Any concession in that regard is out of the question, because it would mean rewarding the aggressor for his aggression—something which the entire international community rejects.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that there are resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and that the concept of these resolutions is clear and specific. We will not accept—and neither will our people or the peace-loving peoples who supported the resolutions, both inside and outside the Security Council, accept—anything less that complete implementation of these resolutions within the time specified by the recent Security Council Resolution 678. They stipulate an unconditional and full withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory before 15 January. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Opposition Denounces UN Resolution Against Iraq

JN0812145690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—The National and Pan-Arab Struggle Front [jabhat al-nidal al-watani wa al-qawmi bi al-jazirah al-'arabiyah] has denounced the recent UN Security Council resolution against Iraq and considers it to be the embodiment of U.S. control over this international organization and an entrenchment of the aggressive U.S. intentions against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In a statement, the front said: While we are watching with deep concern the growing U.S. campaign to ignite war in the region, we stress support for our people in lofty Iraq in the battle of pride and honor in order to defend the Arab nation and repulse the covetous invaders.

The statement calls on all peace-loving forces in the world to take a firm stand in the face of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy aimed at humiliating the Arabs, looting their wealth, and desecrating Muslim sanctities.

Cabinet Discusses Kuwait, Palestine Situation

LD1012203490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over the Cabinet meeting this afternoon at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the meeting, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: The king began today's meeting with a quick review of the current affairs in the Arab Gulf, praising the continued Arab summit conference held in Cairo and the Islamic and UN Security Council resolutions, all of which demand the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory; the return of legitimacy under the leadership of the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah; and the withdrawal of Iraqi troop concentrations from the borders of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom.

In this regard, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, acquainted the Cabinet with the contents of the message he received from His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand and His Excellency British Prime Minister John Major during the audience he had given to the French Ambassador Alan Munro.

The information minister added: Afterwards, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, gave a brief report on results of the meetings of the Joint Saudi-Egyptian Committee and the important achievements made during it in the political, economic, and communication fields. The committee meeting was attended by Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl and Communications Minister Husayn al-Mansuri.

With regard to the tripartite committee meeting—which was attended by the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers as well as the information ministers of the three countries—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal acquainted the Cabinet with the results of talks held during the intensive meetings of the committee, praising the recommendations and decisions contained in its final communique with regard to continued coordination among the three countries toward the unification of common effort for the coming stage, coupled with their identical views on the course of events in the Arab region for the good of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal acquainted the Cabinet with the report of the preparatory meeting for the Gulf Cooperation Council summit conference. [passage omitted]

The minister of information added: The Cabinet followed with great interest the current UN discussions on the Palestine question, affirming the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's unwavering support for the demands of the Palestine people under the leadership of the state of Palestine until their triumph in returning to their land and exercising the right of self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their lands.

The Cabinet appealed to all peace-loving countries to exert their good efforts toward this end.

The minister of information added that the Cabinet then discussed a number of local issues. [passage omitted]

Jasim Denies Reports Libya To Receive Hostages

JN1012125890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1237 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has strongly denied reports about the existence of arrangements to move some of the released foreign guests to Libya.

In a statement to INA, the minister said these reports are incorrect and contrary to our principles and ethics. He affirmed that the disseminators of such reports are alone responsible for their lies.

401 British, 20 Other Westerners Leave Baghdad

JN1012203190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2012 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—In implementation of President Saddam Husayn's order to grant all foreign guests of Iraq the freedom to travel or stay according to their wishes, 401 British nationals and 20 citizens of various Western nationalities left Baghdad this evening for home on board an Iraqi jet.

Thirty-eight Czechoslovak guests of the Iraqi people also left Baghdad aboard a special Iraqi jet accompanied by Mr. Miroslav Vacek, member of the Czechoslovak parliament and former defense minister.

In statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the departing guests of Iraq expressed gratitude and appreciation for the good care and hospitality they were accorded during their stay. They said President Saddam Husayn's order to grant the Iraqi people's guests the freedom to travel or stay in Iraq according to their wishes is a great act that confirms Iraq's principled course to achieve the comprehensive and lasting peace in the region and avert the specter of a destructive war.

All Japanese, Others Reportedly To Leave 11 Dec

OW1012174790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1557 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 10 KYODO—All 78 Japanese hostages and scores of other Japanese detainees in Iraq will be allowed to leave Baghdad Tuesday on an Iraqi airliner chartered by the Japanese Government, the Japanese Embassy here said.

The Iraqi Airways flight is scheduled to leave Baghdad for Bangkok.

After staying the night in the Thai capital, the Japanese will be transferred to another plane chartered by the Japanese Government for a flight to Tokyo Wednesday evening, embassy officials said.

The Japanese Government earlier planned to have the Japanese return directly to Tokyo from Baghdad on a chartered Japanese aircraft but decided to use an Iraqi Boeing 707 at the insistence of Iraqi authorities, the embassy said.

The hostages were moved to the Al-Mansur Meria Hotel in Baghdad by Sunday following the Iraqi parliament's endorsement of President Saddam Husayn's decision to release all foreign hostages, it said.

They were previously held at strategic sites by Iraqi authorities as "human shields" against potential attacks by U.S.-led multinational forces massed in the Persian Gulf in response to Baghdad's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The return of 14 Japanese Embassy staff in Kuwait, who are in Baghdad with the 78 hostages, is under consideration, the officials said.

Applications are being filed for exit visas for 114 more Japanese who are still in Iraq and Kuwait. But red tape in Iraq regarding pending business contracts and other business considerations of Iraqi clients may delay their exodus, they said.

Because the Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad has more seats than needed for the Japanese returnees, arrangements are being made for Australians and Southeast Asians released by Iraq to board the relief plane, Ambassador to Baghdad Tadashi Katakura said.

A group of 300 Britons left Baghdad for London on a special plane on Sunday. All the remaining Americans and Canadians are scheduled to return after Tuesday, the envoy said.

INA Reports CNN Interview With Tariq 'Aziz

JN1112081090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] New York, 11 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that Iraq—homeland and leadership—will not succumb to any threat regardless of its source.

In an interview with the television network CNN aired on Monday afternoon, New York local time, 'Aziz added that Iraq is at the same time ready for peace and that it is also ready to work for dialogue and peace for the entire Middle East region.

Tariq 'Aziz said that if President Bush were to decide to attack Iraq, he would be making the biggest mistake in U.S. history because Iraq, while calling for peace, will not capitulate. As for others, they should not misunderstand Iraq's measures which allowed foreigners to leave, 'Aziz added.

Tariq 'Aziz went on to say: Since its acceptance of President Bush's dialogue proposal, Iraq has been hearing threats rather than a call for dialogue. If his proposal for dialogue with Iraq is being used as a pretext

for attacking Iraq. Bush should know that the language of threats will not change Iraq's position.

Tariq 'Aziz said that 15 January means nothing to Iraq, because Iraq has not recognized the unjust UN Security Council resolution in the first place.

'Aziz noted that Iraq proposed that the U.S. Administration fix a date for the Iraqi foreign minister's meeting with Bush, and that Iraq, for its part, would fix a date for a meeting between Baker and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He said that this is a fair solution for both sides.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister affirmed the existence of a cause-and-effect relationship. He said that the hard fact is that the Palestine question was behind the suffering of the Palestinian people. He wondered: Can anybody deny that this issue is one of the major causes of tension in the Middle East?

'Aziz added: All problems should be dealt with properly. As for Iraq, it seeks gains for all concerned parties and not only for itself, because it is a major party in the Middle East.

The foreign minister said that Iraqi military might is the product of an Iraqi national decision and that neither Baker nor anybody else has the right to interfere with this issue. He asked: Why has Baker failed to ask Israel about its arsenal of nuclear, chemical, biological, and other weapons?

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that Iraq pursues a policy of announcing all weapons in its possession to prevent any aggressive adventure. When it acquires any military capability, Iraq announces it honestly to deter adventurers.

No Concession on Kuwait 'Under Any Circumstance'

JN1012144090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Responding to certain fabricated and insidious news reports regarding secret and public mediation with this or that party over the Gulf crisis, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has said in no uncertain terms that Kuwait is Iraq's governorate number 19, and Iraq cannot concede any inch of it.

The minister stressed that if the United States wants to choose the path of confrontation to resolve the problems, Iraq, together with the Arabs and Muslims, will be able to inflict a major defeat on the United States of America and its allies.

The culture and information minister added that what some people are spreading around are mere wishes and dreams, and everyone must know that the clock will not be turned back under any circumstance.

He stressed that Kuwait was, is, and will continue to be part of Iraq. No single inch of its territory or waters can be conceded, and all financial deposits and investments by the buried al-Sabah family belong to the Iraqi people and cannot be used or squandered. We will file lawsuits against all those who have taken from this money or borrowed from it in the form of foreign loans.

He said: Those who are talking about the UN resolutions must first talk about the Palestine question and the implementation of the resolutions issued since 1947 and up through this date. He pointed out that those who cannot issue a Security Council resolution to protect the Palestinians cannot implement resolutions and solve complicated problems.

He further stressed: Those who want to solve the problems of the region must link the Palestine question with all the other similar issues and use the same standards.

Mr. Jasim asserted that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative provides a practical solution to all the problems of the Arab region—the problems that were caused by the United States and its allies in the region.

We say this loudly to the United States: Leave the sacred Arab places in Mecca and al-Madinah, because you are provoking the sentiments of the Arabs and Muslims and threatening their nation and its stability. Mecca and al-Madinah are hostages under your spears.

Ba'th National Command Issues Statement on Crisis

JN1012132890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1139 GMT 10 Dec 90

["Text" of statement issued by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command to "the Ba'thist strugglers and the Arab Masses" on 10 December—read by announcer]

[Text] O comrade Ba'thists, O struggling Arab masses: Since the beginning of the industrial revolution and the increasing colonialist conflict to control colonies and obtain raw materials to operate their factories and guarantee markets for their products, the old colonialists were aware of the importance of the strategic position of the Arab homeland and its rich natural resources, particularly oil. The new colonialists were aware, from an early time, of the importance of the Arab homeland in their strategic calculations. They have understood the Arab homeland's economic, political, social, and cultural importance, taking into consideration what the Arab civilization has represented throughout history in terms of genuineness and human giving, what the one Arab nation can represent, and the real dangers which the pan-Arab awakening and vigilance might pose to their greedy and illegitimate exploitive interests at present and in the future.

The imperialists, the enemies of the Arab nation, have estimated that their interests and future in the Arab territory are threatened by the unity of the nation, vigilance, and rejuvenation of the nation. Their mean plots were represented by the unjust Sykes-Picot agreement which called for dividing the Arab homeland into

petty states and areas of influence. So, they drew borders that are in harmony with their material interests and economic calculations that are related to obtaining raw materials and marketing the products maufactured by their factories.

They added to this crime a more cunning and bitter crime when they announmced the ill-omened Balfour Declaration which prepared for planting the Zionist entity in the heart of the Arab homeland, deporting the people of Palestine, aiming a poisonous arrow at the heart of the nation with the aim of paralyzing its movement, obstructing its unity plan, and besieging it culturally.

The imperialists under the leadership of the United States have thoroughly concocted the plotting scheme, prepared their calculations, and devoted their huge capabilities to support the racist, expansionist Zionist entity, which they turned into a physical barrier between the sons of the nation on the two flanks of the big homeland. They prepared for it a role to continue the policy of plotting, aggression, and destruction in the region and to fragment national unity in the surrounding countries as happened and as is happening in Lebanon, Syria, and southern Sudan.

O Arab strugglers: Despite the attempts made by the colonialists and imperialists—and despite the attempts they are making now with all their political trends and colors—the Arab nation has been stronger than them and their evil schemes. The fabricated borders imposed on the big homeland could not entrench the psychological barriers they sought. Neither were they able to obliterate the features of its civilization for which they harbored rancor. Today, Arabism is more determined and stronger than ever to stand up to challenges. And the evidence was the popular uprising against the criminal tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956; the 1958 unity between Egypt and Syria, which was a direct response to that aggression; the victory of the Algerian revolution; the launching of the great Palestinian revolution at the beginning of 1965; and the launching of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, the revolution of the new path and the headline of the historical challenge in the march of the nation expressing its cultural depth and the features of its shining future represented by lofty Iraq today.

O masses of the struggling Arab nation, the criminal American imperialists could not bear the rise of the nation led by the Iraq of the Ba'th under the banner of the struggler Comrade President Saddam Husayn, the Iraq of technological, scientific, and intellectual progress, the Iraq of social justice and fairness which is struggling for the sake of the poor. Yes, they and their allies and servants, such as some of the Arab rulers, could not cope with this fact after their agent, the Zionist enemy, failed to perform the conspiratorial role entrusted to it. They decided to enter the battlefield directly, while exploiting the state of collapse in the Soviet Union and of those in its sphere, and to proceed with leading the conspiracy against the fortress of the Arab pride and dignity represented by great Iraq.

Those people forgot that Iraq's steadfastness, which is inspired by the nation's cultural steadfastness, is more powerful than their conspiracies, whether direct or concealed by international covers.

The Arab nation and its revolutionary movement never once reckoned that the international depolarization would exempt it from self-reliance to develop its huge potentials toward realizing and entrenching its political, economic, cultural, and social independence, and seek to build its democratic and united Arab society.

Therefore, the Soviet policy of regression and preoccupation with internal issues and the U.S. singlehandedness has allowed the U.S. imperialism to annex the UN Security Council as part of its administration, use it within the framework of its universal strategy based on hegemony and domination, use the East and West to implement its aggressive policy and support its military presence in the Arabian Peninsula, as well as confirm its hegemony on the dwarfish Arab rulers who revolve in its orbit and implement its criminal scheme against the Arab and Islamic nation. This policy of regression was not capable of influencing the principles of the Arab revolution and the distinguished freedom of choice in pan-Arab and humanitarian dealings.

O masses of our Arab nation, the American and Atlantic land, sea, and air troops have not come to protect rights, justice, and the principles of international legitimacy and law as they allege. Neither were they mobilized with the aim of protecting the Palestinian people, who are being killed, struck, dispersed, and insulted on a daily basis by the Zionist occupation forces. They came here to occupy the oil wells, invade Iraq, and desecrate the Arab and Muslim shrines.

It is no longer a secret to any of the nation's honorable and free sons in the whole world that the fact that the United States resorted to the Security Council to issue the oppressive resolutions successively one after the other, using all the base forms of enticement, promises, and threats, is merely to conceal its aggression on Iraq and the nation and the crimes of its strategic ally in occupied Palestine.

The truly sad fact is that this international institution has become one of the spoils of the White House and the Pentagon's military operations' room, through which the United States mobilizes its weapons of destruction and ruin against the Arab nation. After the second world war, the world hoped the Security Council and the halls of the United Nations would be a forum for protecting the rights of the oppressed in the world, a place to defend human rights, and a starting point for spreading security, entrenching the principles of justice, and safeguarding liberties.

However, those who call themselves the big powers have turned this institution and its branches into an arena to

impose their hegemony and entrench their schemes which stipulate keeping the Third World as an arena for distributing the spoils among themselves.

Following the resolutions on the inhuman boycott and embargo that were imposed on Iraq to starve its people and deprive them of medicines and children's milk, the unjust UN Security Council Resolution 678 comes in blatant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is also tantamount to a declaration of war by a body which was originally established to be against war and for the attainment of world justice and peace.

Masses of our Arab nation, international legitimacy in the view of the UN Security Council has become an American legitimacy. That is, its purpose is to protect the interests of U.S. imperialism, defend the Zionist entity, and impose its presence on the Arab nation while the UN Security Council has failed to impose any of the many decisions it had passed against the Zionist enemy over the past four decades. The Arab nation is well aware that the resolutions adopted against Iraq can never be motivated by concern over the implementation of international legitimacy as long as Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon continue to be under occupation, as long as [Israel] does not accept the legitimacy of any resolution, and as long as Holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs and the third holy place is annexed to the usurper Zionist entity under the eyes and ears of the UN Security Council, which has started using different standards in its dealings with the rights of the Arab nation and the interests of the Third World.

O free men of the nation everywhere, the UN Security Council under the canopy of the hegemony of U.S. imperialism has become an institution that advocates war and encourages aggression. This endangers the international community. The selective policy and the double standards used in dealings have become completely exposed by the so-called Gulf crisis. President struggler Saddam Husayn, who embodies the aspirations of our Arab nation and its masses for liberation, unity, and progress, has been explicit and accurate in his announcement of the 12 August 1990 initiative as he sincerely and comprehensively reflected the nation's causes and the settlement of the region's problems, placing pan-Arab interests above all other considerations. There can be no justice and peace as long as the solution is not a comprehensive one and in accordance with the same principles, and as long as the Palestinian cause is not at the top of the causes that are to be discussed, given that it is the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Irrespective of the attempts by the conspirators, the enemies of the nation from within and outside the Arab homeland to ignore this historic initiative, it has become firmly entrenched in the Arab people's conscience and peace-loving forces have interacted with it.

The Arab nation's masses from the ocean to the Gulf view the 12 August initiative as the key to liberation from hegemony, oppression, exploitation, and injustice, and a prelude that will open broad vistas for an effective Arab contribution to human civilization and for spreading security, stability in the region and the entire world. Iraq and the Arab nation's masses are capable of inflicting defeat on all the imperialist and Zionist enemies, and their lackeys, the agent rulers. So lose not heart, nor fall into despair, for you must gain mastery if you are true in faith. [Koranic verse]

Our militant Arab masses: The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which considers this pan-Arab confrontation the Arab nation's battle, calls on you to entrench militant cohesion and to consider pan-Arab security a single, indivisible concern. It also calls on you to assert the reality of the dialectical relationship between Iraq's steadfastness and the inevitability of its victory in the crucial battle on the one hand, and the intifadah of the occupied territory and the liberation of Palestine from the filth of Zionist invaders on the other. Faith in the truthfulness of this organic relationship makes it incumbent on the vanguards of the Arab nation to seriously work to step up national and pan-Arab struggle to employ the heaviest pressure on the defeatist and reluctant regimes and to mobilize the popular masses and pool their creative energies to force the foreign occupation forces in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf to leave the land of Arab and Islamic sanctities. The vanguards of the Arab nation should firmly stress the close relationship between the presence of these forces and the duration of the Zionist entity's stay on the beloved land of Palestine.

The Arab nation is the stronger side thanks to its profound faith, spiritual values, and militant and jihad preparedness. The armies and weapons of the enemies will backfire. The nation of the eternal message is supported by the will of God against its internal and external enemies. The confrontation of these enemies requires of all honorable Arabs, wherever they are, that they unify their ranks and struggle to consolidate the front of steadfastness and challenge and to turn the entire Arab homeland into a militant extension of the revolution of the heroic stone-throwers in Palestine, a strong shield for the steadfastness of lofty Iraq, and a combat extension to its valiant army and great people on every Arab land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

O masses of our proud Arab nation: Let this crucial battle with its various dimensions be the greatest battle between the Arab nation and the gathering of the enemies. Let all strugglers, honorable citizens, and the crowds of the faithful be prepared to turn the entire Arab homeland, the countries of Muslims, and the world into a battlefield, wherever the United States, its allies, and agents have interests or military or economic presence. Victory is always on the side of the believers.

Long live our Arab nation as a strong, unified, and free nation. Let shame and disgrace befall the Arab nation's imperialist, Zionist, and defeatist enemies.

[Signed] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, 22 Jumada al-Ula 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 10 December 1990.

Jasim on Bush's 'Changing' Goals, 'Lies'

JN1112104890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said that anyone who follows U.S. President George Bush's statements will find that his objectives have changed between 2 August and today.

In a statement to INA today, he added that Bush's changing declared objectives began with protecting Saudi Arabia and then changed to protecting oil, safeguarding U.S. citizens' standard of living, and protecting their way of life, and later into defending the so-called Kuwaiti nation. Therefore, in Bush's viewpoint, Kuwait—which is the 19th Iraqi governorate—has been turned into a nation.

The culture and information minister called on the American people to pay attention to this man's deception, lies, fluctuation, and the changing of his objectives in less than four months. This proves that Bush does not adhere to a defined objective, except to his evil objective, which is aggression.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim warned the U.S. Administration against the consequences of carrying out any aggression. He said: At any rate, if fighting erupts, the aggression will be defeated, the United States will sustain heavy losses, and Bush alone will taste the bitterness of defeat, especially since we are in the last decade of the 20th century, and its consequences on the entire region and its regimes, particularly America's allies, which are predicting their inevitable destiny even before fighting erupts. [sentence as received]

The culture and information minister stressed that the best means to resolve the region's crisis lies in the comprehensive solution and linkage between the region's problems in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and in deep dialogue, disposing of arrogance, and leaving the land of the Arabs and Muslims in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], Mecca, and al-Madinah.

Concluding his statement to INA, the culture and information minister said: Regarding the continuous postponement of the UN Security Council's sessions to discuss any resolution calling for the protection of the Palestinian people and holding an international conference for peace, we say that although we are convinced that these postponements conflict with the simplest aspirations of our Palestinian people for any logical solution to the problem of these struggler people, we believe that these continuous postponements confirm the United States' slighting of the Arabs and its ignoring of their national and pan-Arab rights.

Forces Will Leave 'Peacefully' or in 'Coffins'

JN1112095290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that the American and allies' military concentrations have one of two choices; either to leave for their countries peacefully or return in coffins, for which there may be a beginning but there may be no end.

In an editorial today under the headline "Priority Is for the Liberation of Muslims' Sanctities," the paper says: The occupiers of the Muslims' sanctities in Mecca and al-Madinah have no choice but to leave willingly or unwillingly after they have committed a big sin by encroaching on the dignity of a billion Muslims, who are watching the desecration of their sanctities.

It adds: If there are priorities related to the Gulf developments, then first priority should be given to eliminating the injustice against the Arabs and Muslims, which is represented by the spoliation of the sanctity of the three greatest holy symbols; namely, the holy al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the holy mosque in Mecca, and the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, in al-Madinah.

The paper notes: These days, we are following the repeated statements by American officials about the so-called long stay on the Arabs' holy land under the new umbrella of hegemony, which is now known as security arrangements, a deceptive diplomatic description of the neocolonialists' strategic plan to occupy their homeland whose location is vital to the whole world.

The paper stresses: The impotence of a traitor and conspirator ruler such as Fahd, to perform his duty to liberate the Arabs' sanctities from occupation and to save the region from colonialism and its deceptive names and false covers, makes the free Arabs and Muslims dutybound to rise up to liberate their sanctities. Any delay in performing this duty will create a big burden for future generations and destroy the future of the world through the occupation of this vital part of the world, the humiliation of its sons by desecrating their sanctities, and through threatening Iraq, the symbol of their awakening in this age.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The desert sands will be mixed with the blood of those who were involved in coming to it, especially since the brave fighters will cut the intruders' bodies into pieces. Our slogan today is: "Leave the Arab Desert and return to your homelands because there is nothing else but this, whether you leave willingly or unwillingly." At any rate, you will leave, whatever the circumstances.

RCC Decrees Death Penalty for Mishandling Crops

JN0812113590 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 6 Dec 90 p 4

[Revolution Command Council Decision No. 442 dated 1 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Number of decision: 442.

Date of decision: 13 Jumada al-Ula, 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 1 December 1990.

Decision:

In accordance with Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First: The marketing of wheat, flour, barley, rice, and corn shall be restricted to the state at prices to be specified by the state.

Second: The crops mentioned under Paragraph (1) available to citizens must be delivered within a maximum of two weeks as of the date this decision comes into force.

Third: A farmer producing wheat is allowed to keep 500 kg of wheat for his own. A farmer producing rice is allowed to keep 200 kg of rice for his own.

Fourth: Anyone acting fraudulently with the aim of hoarding and trading with the crops mentioned in Paragraph (1) of this decision shall be sentenced to death.

Fifth: Competent ministers and concerned quarters shall be responsible for implementing this decision.

Sixth: Any text contravening the rules of this decision shall be considered invalid.

Seventh: This decision shall take force as of the date it is published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Malian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN0812173290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Ngolo Traore, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Malian foreign minister said he is carrying a special message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Malian President Moussa Traore, dealing with bilateral relations and current developments in the Arab Gulf region.

He was received at the airport by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Malian ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Saddam

JN0912200690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received this evening Ngolo Traore, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, who conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Malian President Moussa Traore on relations between the two friendly counties and the current situation in the region.

During the meeting, leader President Saddam Husayn stressed his desire to strengthen the brotherly relations with Mali and his eagerness to exchange views and consultations with his brother President Moussa Traore and with the leaders of the Islamic states in Western Africa, who are interested in the situation in the region.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Departs 10 Dec

JN1012152990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1439 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Ngolo Traore, Mali's minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and his delegation left Baghdad today following a three-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Ngolo Traore said that he conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Mali's President Moussa Traore concerning relations between the two friendly countries and current conditions in the region. He said his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was fruitful and positive, and that opinions and views on developments in the Arab region were exchanged. He stressed President Moussa Traore's concern for resolving all problems in the region through negotiations and dialogue.

He was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Ministry Issues Rules on Kuwaiti Identity Cards

JN1012143590 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 7 Dec 90 p 2

[Baghdad - AL-NIDA' office]

[Text] The Ministry of Interior has issued instructions in accordance with which the director general of the Nationality and Civil Affairs Department will prepare the necessary records and registration forms and everything required for registering citizens in the governorate of Kuwait on a special form called the Civil Registration Form for the Governorate of Kuwait. This form contains all the vital statistics required for registration in the civil

records. The form is filled out by a specialized official in the Civil Affairs Department. The head of the family is responsible for checking whether the information is correct or not and signing a commitment to that effect. The information on this form will be used later for the civil records. If the citizen provides incorrect information, the personal identity card he gets will be canceled and withdrawn from him. Any action taken on the basis of the card will be annulled. The person will be punished in accordance with Article 245 of the amended penal code No. 111/1969, which stipulates a prison sentence of no more than one year and a fine of no more than 100 dinars, or either of these two punishments. The instructions stipulate that Kuwaitis who do not carry Kuwaiti civil identity cards will be registered on the basis of their birth certificates issued in Kuwait previously or the documents of birth issued by the specialized court. They will not be granted personal identity cards except after transferring the form into the civil registration records. The original previous Kuwaiti civil identity cards will be exchanged, but a photocopy of these cards will not be acceptable for the personal cards after the form is filled out, which is called the form for exchanging the civil identity card for the personal identity card. This form contains pictures of the people included and is signed by the head of the family, confirming receipt and writing down his full address and the number of the personal card. The original Kuwaiti civil identity card and proof of citizenship will be withdrawn from those who exchange their civil identity cards for the personal cards. The day and month will be recorded in the special box for the date of birth based on the documents presented by those carrying out this process. In the case where it is not present, the information will be provided by the head of the family. When the head of the family is not sure of the date, the specialized official takes on the task of recording the date 1 July in the above-mentioned box.

Saddam Receives Cable From Mauritania's Taya

JN0612163890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Mauritanian Military Committee of National Salvation and chief of state, in response to the congratulatory cable which his excellency sent Taya on the national day of Mauritania.

The cable reads: I thank your excellency very much on the fraternal congratulatory cable which you addressed to us on the occasion of our national day.

On this opportunity, I express in my own name and on behalf of the Mauritanian people and its national leadership our wishes of good health and happiness for your excellency and more progress and prosperity for the fraternal Iraqi people.

We ask God to help us succeed in our efforts for the well-being of our Arab and Islamic nation.

Islamic Jihad, PFLP Claim Bethlehem Explosion

JN1012143190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] In Amman, the Islamic Jihad Organization-al-Aqsa Battalions today claimed responsibility for yesterday's explosion of two bombs in front of the Israeli military governor's building in Bethlehem. One Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded in the explosion.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in Damascus also claimed responsibility for the operation.

Official, Hurd Discuss UN Draft Resolution

TA1012152290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu hopes Britain will not support the anti-Israeli resolution submitted by some nonaligned countries to the UN Security Council. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Netanyahu made these remarks in a meeting in London today with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd.

Netanyahu also voiced Israel's concern that at the end of the Gulf crisis Saddam Husayn would retain a vast arsenal that includes weapons of mass destruction. Secretary Hurd replied that Britain is aware of the problem, and is currently formulating its policy on the matter.

Levi Calls for Coordinated Positions After Crisis

TA1012161390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Report by Yaron Toren]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi, who is also acting prime minister, reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Israel's diplomatic situation in the wake of the developments in the Gulf and the Middle East. On the hot issue, the Security Council deliberations, Levi said it cannot be said that the United States has abandoned the international conference idea, but does not plan to support it at this stage.

[Begin Levi recording] I believe that America has come to realize that whatever contradicts our joint interests must not be permitted to be on the Security Council's agenda. Therefore, following consultations with us, the United States is making an intense effort to remove the international conference idea from the Security Council's agenda. [end recording]

The foreign minister was asked by Knesset members and later by reporters whether the United States is meeting its commitment to oppose any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Arab conflict. We must give the U.S. Administration credit for saying publicly that it opposes any linkage between the two issues and for making sure that the aggressor, Saddam Husayn, does not make any gains from the crisis, Levi said. Nevertheless, Israel will conduct contacts with the United States to discuss possible repercussions when the crisis ends, either by force or after negotiations.

[Begin Levi recording] We must not wait until the Gulf crisis ends. We must coordinate positions between the United States and ourselves so that God forbid there are no misunderstandings, and the earlier this is done the better. [end recording]

The delegation headed by Dennis Ross, the director of the State Department's policy planning department, will arrive on 17 December, and Foreign Minister Levi said that the talks will be candid, and if there are differences we will clarify them, and find solutions.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 10 December in a similar report also quotes Mr. Levi as saying: "We received a detailed written announcement from the United States that in the talks with Iraq there would be no linkage between the two conflicts. Minister Levi pointed out that Israel must not appear as though it is pushing the United States into war. The arrival of the Americans in the Gulf increased the threat to Israel and it is important to demand that they clarify in good time how that conflict will end, the foreign minister said."]

Shamir: 1990 Israel Is Not 1938 Czechoslovakia

TA1112055090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir meets today in Washington with U.S. President George Bush. The meeting is scheduled for 1700 Israel time [1500 GMT] and will include a discussion of the Gulf crisis, as well as ways to advance peace in the Middle East.

Last night in New York, Shamir said that Israel will not be surprised if there is an attempt by some of the international community to appease Iraq at the expense of the Jewish state; but Shamir, speaking after he received the Jabotinsky prize, said Israel would not acquiesce. Jonathan Shachter has more:

[Begin recording] [Shachter] In his acceptance speech for the Defender of Jerusalem award, Prime Minister Shamir reiterated his warning that Israel will not remain passive if Iraqi President Saddam Husayn tries to harm Israel. Saddam's aggression must be stopped, said Shamir, and together with the free world, Israel looks to the United States to provide the leadership to rid the Middle East of such dangers in the future. But then Shamir added this:

[Shamir] We will not be surprised if soon a number of states, not only Arab governments, will move to appease Saddam Husayn at the expense of Israel. The well-known arguments will be that Israel should make a contribution, ostensibly for the sake of world peace. Let me therefore

state at the very outset: Israel in 1990 is not Czechoslovakia of 1938. [applause] We shall not acquiesce to any deal with enemies who wish to destroy us. We trust the American Government's determined stand not to permit Saddam Husayn to link the Gulf crisis with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue. [applause]

[Shachter] Israel's Arab neighbors must be persuaded, said Shamir, that only one option is open to them: the option of negotiations and peace. Israel must be strong and vigilant, he added, but always ready to negotiate peace. [end recording]

Beilin Calls for Palestinian State in Gaza

TA1012201490 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Beilin, head of the Labor Party's Mashov group, proposes setting up a sovereign Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip. At a later stage, after peace is formed with the Arab states, MK Beilin proposes self-determination for the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria through a referendum. He said Palestinian figures he conferred with recently are prepared to accept his suggestions. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Haplerin talked with MK Beilin.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] This will involve negotiations between Israel and a Palestinian delegation. The first aim will be to achieve Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, set up there a sovereign independent Palestinian state with a representation in the United Nations, and everything else a state has. The state will be demilitarized, there will be security arrangements with Israel, and a special arrangement for the Jewish settlers in the Qatif bloc.

[Halperin] And a peace accord and diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Beilin] Of course. I would say that in the West Bank a process would have to start in which the Palestinians would be those to bring the Arab states, especially Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, to make peace with Israel. After there is peace with those three countries, I believe we will be able to hold a referendum in Judaea and Samaria to enable them to decide between a federation with Jordan, or possibly with Israel, or any other settlement, including joining the Palestinian state that would exist in Gaza. There would be secure borders, and Jerusalem's unity and all the things that are vital for us would be guaranteed.

[Halperin] Does that proposal not deviate from or seriously contradict the Labor Party platform which opposes ... Palestinian state?

[Beilin] First, a lot has happened since the most recent platform was written, and we are about to write a new platform and hold a new conference. The thoughts I am now raising are part of the effort we are making in the Mashov group prior to the conference. I believe that the principle of Gaza first, but in a different formula [from an earlier proposal by the late Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan]—self-determination, a state and not just autonomy, and with autonomy in Judaea and Samaria because of the possibility of self-determination—could now be accepted by the Labor Party. I myself, for instance, would be happy if Prime Minister Shamir would present such an idea to President Bush in their talks tomorrow instead of waiting for proposals which would be dictated to us by Bush and others.

[Halperin] Does the Labor Party chairman [Peres] know about these proposals, and does he accept them?

[Beilin] No, he does not know about them and does not accept them. He is not part of our efforts in the Mashov group. [end recording]

Labor Secretary on Beilin Remarks

TA1112073390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Labor Party Secretary Mikha Harish has rejected a demand by party hawks to convene party institutions to call Knesset Member Yosi Beilin to order for his proposal regarding a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Harish told our correspondent that this is a deviant view which does not reflect the Labor Party's position and should not be taken seriously.

IDF 'Will Restore Order' in Territories

TA1112122290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that Israel will not restrict itself in the face of the use of arms against soldiers and civilians in Judaea and Samaria and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will restore order. Minister Arens stated this during a tour of the Golan Heights, as reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar.

[Begin recording] [Dar] The recent terrorist acts in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have not resulted in a drastic change in the government's policy toward those who activate roadside bombs, take up arms, and wield knives. This was the impression received today from remarks made by the defense minister during a tour of the Golan Heights. At the same time, Moshe Arens made it clear that the recent incidents freed Israel from several restrictions it has imposed upon itself over the last three years.

[Arens] The fact that the residents of the territories did not carry out these acts for three years was not a result of their not wanting or not knowing how to do so, but from their strategy, which called for trying to conduct the intifadah with stones rather than with arms, because they knew we bind ourselves by certain limitations when we face civilians who do not use arms. Nonetheless, we have no restrictions in the face of arms. We are doing our best to guarantee the safety of the residents and safety on the roads, so as to restore order in the territories.

[Dar] The defense minister took advantage of his visit to the Golan Heights on the eve of the ninth anniversary of its annexation to Israel to refute rumors regarding an exchange of messages between the Israeli Government and the Syrian regime.

[Arens] The government has not exchanged any messages. We neither received nor sent any messages. We are permanently present on the Golan Heights, which is part of the State of Israel.

[Dar] Minister Arens has expectations concerning the talk scheduled to take place between the prime minister and President Bush this evening.

[Arens] I have no doubt this will be a good talk.

[Dar] As for the new proposal by Knesset Member Yosi Beilin on the establishment of a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip, the defense minister refused to elaborate beyond stating that his opinion of this proposal is negative. [end recording]

Peres Objects to International Conference

TA1012165890 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Rafi Reshef—live in the studio]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reshef] Mr. Peres, how do you relate to the fact that the United States is dragging us into an international conference?

[Peres] I think very serious preparations are under way for an international conference along the lines of the Helsinki Conference. I am saying this based on overt publications—I am not revealing any secrets. Only a few days ago THE LOS ANGELES TIMES carried an article by two Americans—one of them was Richard Murphy, who used to be in charge of the State Department's Middle East desk—saying that an informal Soviet-U.S. body has been discussing ways to promote the cause of peace in the Middle East. This body has been hearing the Likud say that comprehensive negotiations are necessary, and they are getting them ready for us. All the Arab countries, the Palestinians, and all the other countries would be invited to discuss everything at one time. The conference on the Middle East would be along the lines of the CSCE, also known as the Helsinki Conference. I think this will not occur as long as the Gulf crisis has not been settled, but once it is solved this issue will probably be placed on the agenda. Today there is only one issue at stake, and that is the Gulf crisis.

[Reshef] With your permission, before we go into that, I would like to know how do you relate to the differing views voiced by Pickering and Baker and the conflicting assessments we have been hearing from Washington?

[Peres] They are not the Israeli Government, they do not speak with two voices. They have one policy, but different needs and emphases. I think Mr. Pickering's problem was to attain a consensus on a military resolution concerning Iraq and some promises were apparently made. As I said, I do not think the international conference is an immediate issue.

[Reshef] It will take place separately from the Gulf issue.

[Peres] Not separately, but after the Gulf crisis. Today the main problem of the United States is to settle the Gulf crisis.

[Reshef] Yesterday I heard you say that you object to an international conference.

[Peres] The term international conference is a very complicated one. The Israeli Government, including the Likud, at one time agreed to an international conference, to the Geneva Conference in 1973 attended by the United States and the Soviet Union which actually broke the way for negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The term international conference renders itself to numerous interpretations. For instance, if the two superpowers served as sponsors without coercive powers—that would be one thing, but if the international conference had power to make decisions—that would be a different thing altogether.

I would like to say the following so that the public should have the full picture. In my opinion, the UN Security Council is today far more dangerous than an international conference because it can decide on sanctions, whereas an international conference cannot make such a decision. Ever since the Americans made up with the Soviets or, to be more precise, ever since the Soviets got out of both the Middle Eastern and East European picture....

[Reshef, interrupting] If you do not mind, I did not understand what your position is. Are you in favor or against an international conference?

[Peres] I will explain. At one time I was in favor of an international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union and Jordan so as to bring the latter to the negotiating table and shut the door before the PLO. Today, to negotiate with the Palestinians only, there is no need for an international conference. Such a conference would be a cumbersome and costly extra weight which would only hinder the plane's take-off. The Likud's insistence on its position to hold negotiations simultaneously with all the Arab countries is the recipe for an international conference because if you want to talk with all the Arabs, all the Arab countries, and all our neighbors about all the issues, the superpowers will say: All right, let us bring them all together, and we will also come—and that will be an international conference par excellence. [passage omitted]

'Ovadya 'Eli Appointed Deputy Defense Minister

TA1012175190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Knesset Member 'Ovadya 'Eli will be appointed deputy defense minister. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir

reports that 'Eli will be in charge of home front affairs, settlement in the territories, military industries in development towns, and liaison with the Knesset.

Arens Orders Harsher Sentences for Stone Throwers

TA1112055390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Military prosecutors have been ordered to demand harsher sentences for those convicted of throwing stones at Israeli cars in the territories. The order was issued upon the directive of Defense Minister Arens, who was responding to the increase in stone-throwing attacks in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Military prosecutors are now under orders to request long sentences for stone throwers, with the maximum punishment being 20 years. Convicted stone throwers have been sentenced mostly to short prison terms or given suspended sentences.

Assigns 'Undercover' Squads

TA1112123590 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Yesterday the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] announced its intention to step up its special activities against stone throwers in the territories over the coming days. The IDF has employed squads of undercover standing Army soldiers, under the command of an officer, which lie in wait for stone throwers along roads and traffic axes in the West Bank. These squads have been given permission to shoot to injure when the stone throwing endangers human life.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens gave permission to shoot three months ago, after receiving authorization from the military prosecution. Within the framework of this activity, squads of soldiers operated yesterday along several traffic axes in the West Bank, and in some cases indeed fired at stone throwers: A youth was lightly injured on the Bi'r Zayt road; two stone throwers were injured on the Avney Hefetz road, near Tulkarm—one lightly, while the second suffered moderate injuries; another was lightly injured near Tuqu'.

Our Army affairs correspondent pointed out that contrary to custom, yesterday the IDF initiated the release regarding the operation of the special squads and the results of their activity. Senior military sources said that the report was published, among other reasons, at the defense minister's request. The defense minister wishes to prove to the settlers that the IDF is carrying out deterrent operations and striving to increase security along the main traffic arteries.

Police Patrol Ambushed; Two Arabs Detained

TA0912124190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed, Hayim Broida, and Yotam Navin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A Border Police force patrolling the Shu'fat refugee camp area Friday night was ambushed and fired on. There were neither injuries nor damage, and the force returned fire.

At about 2300 a patrol observed flames coming from a soccer field in the center of the camp. The force advanced and saw a bonfire, but nobody was there supervising it. When the patrol prepared to leave two shots were fired at it. Several seconds later fire was resumed and this time a volley of automatic fire was opened at the policemen. Reinforcements were sent in and searches were conducted for suspects. The slugs fired at the policemen were found in the morning.

Two Arab youths were detained yesterday in Jerusalem when they were found loitering near the Western Wall with knives in their clothes. During interrogation they said that they had planned to kill Jews at the Wall.

"We passed the two and something looked wrong. I walked back, called on them to halt, and to show their ID's. One of them began to shake and laugh hysterically. I was therefore not surprised when we found the two large knives hidden among their clothes," one of the border policemen said. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 9 December in a page A1 report by Nadav Shragay, Eytan Rabin, and 'Atalah Mansur quotes security sources as forecasting that the intifadah will continue next year in view of the economic plight of the residents and the lack of a political process. Still, they said that there has been a decline in fatalities in recent months in the territories, among other reasons because IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities have become more sophisticated. "The sources claim that there is an obvious weariness among the inhabitants over confrontations with IDF troops. They said that since Minister Arens took over the Defense Ministry the dialogue with the Palestinians has been renewed."]

Gaza Arab Killed by Police; Riots in Territories

TA0912134490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] A Gaza Strip resident who had attacked a border policeman this afternoon was wounded by police gunfire and died of his wounds. The attacked policeman was slightly grazed by ricocheting gunfire.

Elsewhere in the Strip, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Army jeep and missed its target.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that near the Hebron District village of Bani-Na'im a masked youth was wounded by soldiers' gunfire as rioters were being dispersed.

In the East Jerusalem villages of Silwan and 'Isawiyah, local residents rioted and hurled stones at Border Police troops. The police dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets and detained seven rioters.

A Jerusalem Jew today lodged a complaint with the police that an Arab youth tried to stab him in the vicinity of the Damascus Gate. No stab marks were found on his body, and the complaint is being investigated.

Most of the territories are under curfew today. A general strike was declared in locations where curfews were not imposed.

Update on Intifadah Incidents 9, 10 Dec

TA1012122190

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 10 December in a page A1 report by Yizhar Be'er reports that "the third anniversary of the intifadah was marked in the territories by a general strike and by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] curfew on most of the towns in the West Bank. A full curfew was in force in Nabulus, Janin, and in the refugee camps surrounding them, as well as in Hebron and many villages. Ramallah was declared a closed military zone.

"Despite the soldiers' massive presence, numerous processions were held by groups of masked men in the West Bank, especially at locations far removed from the main traffic axes. Except for the bloody incident in Bethlehem, Palestinian sources reported few incidents. A masked man was shot and lightly injured in the village of Bani-Na'im after trying to thrown stones at soldiers, while other masked men fired shots at an Israeli car near Surif village. There were no casualties."

The report adds that "Palestinian sources reported that two residents of Rafah were lightly injured."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 10 December in a page A3 pool report adds that "yesterday evening, stones were hurled at a Border Police patrol in the village of Jabal Mukabar. One of the policemen was lightly injured. Approximately one hour later, a Border Police patrol was again stoned, and an officer was lightly injured when hit in the shoulder. A third border policeman was lightly hurt when hit by a stone in the Old City."

The report adds that "a firebomb was hurled at an IDF patrol in Bayt Lahiyah. The bottle struck no one and caused no casualties." A curfew was imposed yesterday on all of the Gaza Strip, except Bayt Hanun and several villages in the northern part of the strip. "Four Janin residents were arrested by the 'Afula police on suspicion of trying to run over an IDF soldier."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 10 December reports that "most of the preventive curfews imposed in Judaea and Samaria three days ago were lifted this morning." The report adds that "curfews remain in effect in the Nabulus area refugee camps and in several additional sites. In the Gaza Strip, all curfews were lifted, with the exception of Bani-Suhaylah, where a youth was killed while trying to attack a border policeman yesterday.

"A can with burning contact glue was hurled this morning at a Jewish home in the Old City of Jerusalem," but no damage was caused." A car belonging to an Arab from Wadi al-Jawz" was gutted yesterday in Bayt Safafa."

King's 'Call' Said Outcome of Baghdad Talks

JN1112085390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 90 pp 1,5

[By staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's call Sunday for a simultaneous convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Kuwait marked the first Arab proposal for a mechanism to link the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian problem.

According to political analysts, King Husayn is seeking to cushion Washington's opposition to any sort of linkage between the two conflicts by emphasising two elements acceptable to all of the U.S. allies: Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the convening of an international peace conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Although the King did not refer to the Iraqi position regarding the proposal in his speech, well-informed Arab sources said that his call was consistent with ideas discussed with the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last week in Baghdad.

Consequently the King's proposal is believed to be part of a strategy worked out at the Baghdad meeting, also attending the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Yemeni Vice-President 'Ali Nasir Al-Bid. The mini-summit went a long way towards coordinating a common negotiating position prior to the projected Iraqi-American dialogue, according to officials and observers here.

They told the Jordan Times that the Iraqi President indicated that he would only be ready to compromise if there was progress towards a just settlement for the Palestinian problem. What Iraq meant by that progress, it was not immediately clear, they said.

Arab officials and analysts pointed out that neither Iraq nor Jordan is seeking a mechanical linkage but as the King made clear in his speech, the situation in the region will remain explosive if the Gulf crisis is resolved without initiating a peace process in the Middle East.

In an interview with the American ABC Television network last week Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stressed that his country did not insist on a certain terminology to describe the connection between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The objective, he explained, was to settle all of the unresolved problems plaguing the region.

In the English text of King Husayn's speech, both the terms "linkage" and "interrelation" between all problems in the area were used in an another indication that Jordan also was more concerned to see a beginning of a genuine peace process than a mechanical linkage.

In his speech the King appeared to draw a scenario for a comprehensive peace process starting with efforts to heal the Arab rift over the Gulf crisis and ending with a settlement of the Iraqi- Kuwaiti dispute and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The first step, according to this scenario, will be the beginning of an inter-Arab dialogue to bridge the gap between the two camps in the Arab World divided over the Gulf crisis, particularly over the U.S.-led military build up in the region.

This involves Arab mediation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, as well as other bilateral contacts in an effort to reach a common negotiating Arab position to pressure the international community to address all of the problems in the region.

According to Jordanian officials, Jordan and Algeria are involved in mediation efforts between Riyadh and Baghdad. Even though Jordanian-Saudi relations have been strained by differences over the Gulf crisis, political analysist believe that Riyadh will accept a Jordanian role taking into consideration King Husayn's good offices in Baghdad and Jordan's opposition to the Iraqi takeover and annexation of Kuwait.

In his speech King Husayn indicated that Jordan's role as a mediator—between Baghdad and Washington or between Arab countries—was undermined by Washington's embargo on dialogue with Baghdad.

Therefore, Jordan now feels that the American decision to initiate contacts with Baghdad has paved the way for Jordan and other countries to play the role of mediator to find a common ground between the major protagonists.

According to political analysts, the ball is now in the court of the U.S. allies in the Arab world who so far have not made any tangible move since the American decision to start a dialogue with Iraq.

Arab diplomats said that contacts, through third parties, are already under way between Baghdad and Saudi Arabia, but these contacts have not yet reached the point of a specific agreement to allow a top-level meeting.

There have been indications, however, that Riyadh might be ready to consider the main Iraqi economic claims in Kuwait. The King on Sunday indicated that any settlement for the Gulf crisis should involve a compromise by both the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis.

Judging by the reaction of the state-run Iraqi media, which ran extensive quotes from King Husayn's speech, Baghdad has implictly welcomed the Jordanian proposals despite its reiteration that it will not withdraw from Kuwait.

Arab officials close to the Iraqi leadership say that Baghdad should not be expected to make any sign of a compromise prior to the beginning of a real dialogue with the U.S.

"Baghdad is not even sure yet that the U.S. will be ready to negotiate; why should it make any concession at this stage"? one Arab official asked.

In the view of some Arab officials, an inter-Arab dialogue will boost prospects for the projected visit by 'Aziz to Washington to begin an Iraqi-American negotiations process.

The inter-Arab dialogue, according to analysts, is not expected to only involve mediation efforts but also to rally support for Iraqi demands for an American commitment towards a peace process—based on United Nations resolutions—for the Palestinian problem.

They said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia—the leaders of the U.S. allies in the Arab world—will be embarrassed to come across as opponents of an international peace conference especially if there were signs that iraq was ready to withdraw from Kuwait.

But in order for an Arab consensus to emerge over a mechanism to start a comprehensive peace conference in the region, the analysts point out, there should be a unifed approach on another sensitive issue: The presence of mass destruction weapons in the region.

Many Arab officials and analysts have feared, from the very outset of the eruption of the Gulf crisis, that the main objective of the U.S. will remain the destruction of the military power of Iraq either through a military strike or through a settlement involving reductions in Iraqi's military arsenal.

Previous American proposals called for the elimination of chemical weapons in the region without any reference to the nuclear arsenal believed to be possessed by Israel.

In his speech King Husayn warned against a settlement which will strip Iraq of its military and technological power thus giving Israel the upper hand in the region and undermining prospects for a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Therefore, analysts conclude, any settlement or peace plans for the region should call for the elimination of mass destruction weapons to prevent attempts to destroy Iraq's military power.

Algerian President's Amman Tour Previewed

JN1112070590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 90 pp 1, 5

[Report by staff reporter P.V. Vivekenand]

[Text] Amman—Algerian President Chadli Benjedid today launches a fresh bid to explore the chances for mediation among the Arab parties to the Gulf crisis.

Announcing Bendjedid's mission, who is expected to arrive in Amman today before proceeding to Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Algeria's APS news agency said the president had "constantly maintained contacts with his peers on the situation of crisis," that prevails in the Gulf.

One of the key components of the initiative is a meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, highly informed sources said.

"It is time that the countries which have not joined the war camp use their credibility and good offices to resolve the Gulf conflict," a senior Jordanian official said. "Indeed Algeria is prominent among such countries and we see (the Algerian effort) as highly positive and welcome it," the official told the JORDAN TIMES.

"The efforts of Yemen and Oman—although the Omanis did not assume a very high profile role—are also very commendable," added the official, prefering to remain anonymous.

According to another informed source, "an important Arab effort to mediate the Gulf crisis is now focused on the Algerian leader's ability to convince both (President) Saddam and (King Fahd) of the need to climb down from their firm positions if only for the sake of averting a devastating war with unpredictable outcome."

APS said that Benjedid "intends to pursue his consultations (with other Arab leaders) and continue the efforts of Algeria for the good of all peoples of the region as well as the higher interests of the Arab Nation."

The Algerian effort also enjoys the support of many members of the Non-Aligned Movement and fits in as the "missing Arab element" in the ongoing missions by former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, according to Third World diplomatic sources.

"A multitude of international statesmen and politicians is waiting in the wings hoping that Benjedid would be successful in softening the Saudi position," said a diplomat. "Hopefully, once that is achieved, then these leaders will exert collective as well as individual efforts to augment the initiative in such a way that would make it virtually impossible for the U.S. to brush it aside," the diplomat added.

Among the leaders the diplomat mentioned as involved in the effort are: former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Mexican President Carlos Salinas, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

"Although some of these leaders are not in power, they can do things that governments cannot," added the diplomat.

According to the sources, the Benjedid mission is the result of several weeks of painstaking consultations among Arab leaders. Diplomats noted that King Fahd

had sent one of his advisers, Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Muslim, to Algeria twice in four days last week for talks with Benjedid.

The president has also met with Iraqi and Kuwaiti envoys several times since the Gulf crisis broke out.

A meeting between Saddam and Fahd, the two key leaders involved in the Gulf crisis, was also the focal point of efforts exerted by His Majesty King Husayn. It was believed to be one of the key themes discussed during a mini-summit the King held with the Iraqi president, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Yemeni Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Baghdad last week.

"There is no objection from the Iraqi side to a meeting between Saddam and Fahd," said one source. "Saddam himself has repeatedly told senior peace envoys that he is ready for talks with King Fahd," the source noted. "It has been the Saudi side which had turned down the Iraqi overture."

Al-Qadhdhafi has also been one of the Arab leaders who sought to arrange an Iraqi-Saudi summit but gave up after Riyadh remained firm on its condition that any dialogue with Iraq could begin only after it withdrew from Kuwait.

"The Saudis have indicated that all issues, including Iraq's legitimate claims in its dispute with Kuwait, are negotiable but only after Saddam actually begins a withdrawal from Kuwait," said the source. "A public pledge from Baghdad that it would withdraw (from Kuwait) is simply not enough at this point in time as far as the Saudis are concerned."

One of the ideas floated by Benjedid, in consultations with other Arab leaders, is to arrange the sought-for Fahd-Saddam summit under a slightly wider Arab umbrella, grouping leaders of at least five other Arab states, including Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Tunisia and Oman (in its capacity as the serving chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council) and possibly Egypt, according to the sources.

The response that the mission receives from the Saudi and other key Arab capitals such as Cairo and Damascus could be crucial to the success of the effort, one source noted.

Benjedid said last week that while Algeria opposed the takeover of Kuwait by Iraq, "We cannot keep silent on the threat posed to Iraq and its capabilities which we consider common to the Arab Nation."

"We also cannot keep our arms crossed in front of the attempt to starve the Iraqi people," he said, referring to U.N. sanctions against trade with Iraq.

"The situation is very complex and dangerous, but we are not discouraged that reason and dialogue will prevail," Benjedid told APS last week.

"We will continue to deploy all possible efforts to create the required conditions to reach a political solution to avoid an armed conflagration that would be a catastrophe for the world."

King Receives U.S., Soviet Officials

JN0912181090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Henry Rowen and his delegation. They reviewed the developments of the Gulf crisis, Jordan's eagerness to achieve a political settlement of it, and the importance of working seriously to address the other Middle East crises with full respect for the principles of international legitimacy. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Also at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, his majesty received Wayne Owens, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who exchanged views with his majesty on the Gulf crisis and its developments. During the meeting, his majesty stressed the importance of bringing about a political settlement of this crisis and other Middle East crises based on full respect for the principles of world legitimacy. His majesty also welcomed the new U.S. orientation and expressed hope that a serious and deep dialogue between Baghdad and Washington will begin and be followed by a practical desire to settle the Middle East crisis in a manner that serves regional peace and security and that has a positive effect on world peace and security. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and the delegation accompanying Mr. Owens.

His majesty also received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Mr. Boris Pyadyshev, the ambassador and collegium member of the General Administration of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis, with his majesty stressing Jordan's desire for a political solution to this crisis and its support for every sincere efforts to achieve a settlement of this crisis and the other crises in the region. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Hasan Meets U.S. Official

JN1012143790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Wayne Owens, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, at his office this morning.

During the meeting, they reviewed all aspects of issues in the region—developments of the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question in particular. His royal highness explained his view of how to bring about peaceful

solutions to both problems in accordance with international legitimacy. They also reviewed bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

U.S. Defense Official Departs

JN1012185290 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Henry Rowen and his accompanying delegation left Amman at noon today after an official visit to Jordan, during which he met with number of senior officials. He was seen off at Amman airport by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib, a number of his aides, the commander of the Royal Air Force, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

U.S. 'Unwittingly' Linking Mideast Issues

JN1012073590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Hallucination and War Fever"]

[Text] The U.N. Security Council failed again on Saturday and Sunday to adopt the much-awaited resolution on the Palestinian problem. Once again it was the U.S. which stopped the council from going ahead with the vote on the proposed resolution by threatening to use its veto power against it. At issue in Washington's point of view is the mere mention of the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East. The mere whisper about the need to convene such a conference has already held up adopting a resolution on protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories for over two months now. If just hinting that such a forum is so much of an anathema to the U.S. what good will it do to pursue the point anyway? The idea of an international parley on the Palestinian situation and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict is already beset by a multitude of contentious issues between the Arab and Israeli sides. If on the top of all that getting to the conference has become a mission impossible, what can the parties expect from it once it really gets going? There is no way that the conference idea would ever materialise without a deep commitment from the parties concerned to it as a forum to negotiate peace terms between the two sides.

Washington has offered the strangest of excuses for aborting the idea of convening such a conference. The U.S. representative to the U.N., Thomas Pickering, has advanced the bizzare notion that incorporating language on the international conference idea in the proposed resolution would be tantamount to presenting Iraq with linkage that it demands between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. In other words, Pickering has concluded, the acceptance of the reference to an international peace conference would be like rewarding Baghdad. If there is any party which is now establishing such a linkage between the two situations it is Washington. By insisting that reference to the conference would offer an organic link between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian situations it is the U.S. and the U.S. alone which is unwittingly making this linkage stand. There is not a single word in the draft resolution on the Palestinian problem that mentions or touches on the Gulf crisis. Why then does Washington see linkage when there is none? Some people must be hallucinating back there in Washington. We both hope and pray that it is not the War Fever which is causing it.

Editorial Views Bush's 'Difficult Decision'

JN1012091690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Dec 90 p 1, 20

[Editorial: "President Bush's Humanity]

[Text] President George Bush has announced that the withdrawal of U.S. diplomats from Kuwait after the U.S. nationals who were hiding there have left, will make a difficult decision which might be made in the future, easier. This difficult decision is the U.S. invasion of Iraq and Kuwait and this means concentrating its planes, missiles, and gunfire at the Iraqis and Kuwaitis.

This new and strange statement by President Bush is perplexing and disgusting at the same time. It clearly reveals the character of the U.S. president, who is concerned about the lives of four or five U.S. diplomats but does not give a toss about the hundreds of thousands of Kuwaitis for whose sake he came to our Arab homeland, with his forces, under the slogan of protecting and shielding them, as well as averting the Iraqi danger from them. Undoubtedly, President Bush meant what he said, thus affirming the contemptuous way he deals with our nation and the extent of his indifference toward the lives of the sons of our nation. His statement reflects the extent of his racist pleasure that the U.S. diplomats' departure from Kuwait will enable him to commit the massacres he is plotting, and will give him a free hand against hundreds of thousands of Arab citizens. It will also facilitate the task before his planes, warships, missiles, and fires, and, more importantly, it reflects his grudge against and resentment for us, and makes light of our human existence. In fact, in President Bush's view, we are like a herd of sheep which must be slaughtered, and one should enjoy shedding their blood and grinding their bones and flesh at the same time.

The U.S. President did not seem worried about the remaining British diplomats. This is because when he decides to make his difficult decision, who will perish and whose bodies will be devoured by fire is unimportant to him. While we are sure about his feelings, we disagree that his decision will be difficult. There is nothing easier for someone whose heart is full of hatred than to implement such a disgraceful decision. Throughout history, there have been murderers and butchers who did not bat an eyelash while supervising the annihilation and killing carried out by their soldiers.

What we would like to say here is that President Bush, it seems, is very concerned that Iraq's guests, once they leave Iraq, are not allowed to forget their psychological suffering during the period they were not allowed to leave. Iraq itself has apologized for any suffering it may have caused and asked forgiveness from God. However, the U.S. President's statements will only make them suffer continously; even the diplomats who will leave Kuwait will be haunted forever by the feeling that their departure from Iraq paved the way before Washington's tanks, and cleared the airspace before its planes and missiles so that it could commit the crime of the century against the Iraqis and Kuwaitis and against the whole of human conscience, including the conscience of the American people.

Allies Urged To Abandon U.S.-Israeli 'Trench'

JN0912115290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Dec 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Israeli Weaponry in the Gulf"]

[Text] Israeli media yesterday quoted U.S. sources as saying that the United States will supply its forces in the Gulf with 5,000 Israeli-made pilotless radar aircraft, and that the price of this deal amounts to $500 million. This means that U.S. military presence in the Gulf has opened the doors to Israeli war industries to channel their production into the region. This also means that the United States wants Israel to be present in the Gulf through Israeli weaponry. It is no secret that this makes Israel a partner in arms in the military buildup there, and places it in the trench which comprises the United States and its allies in the region.

Needless to say, this development portends serious repercussions that the Gulf crisis might produce if the United States continues its hegemony on the crisis and continues to have the upper hand in this affair. Therefore, there is a need now more than ever for the Arabs to exercise a real role to contain and resolve the crisis within an Arab context. Contrary to this, the United States might have a certain role in mind for Israel according to the "future security" arrangements in the region, after the United States has found a role for Israel concerning armament in the crisis.

It is important to stress that the anticipated Iraqi-U.S. dialogue is not a substitute for the hoped-for Arab role. In fact, the Arabs' quick, active embracement of this role could strengthen the Iraqi position in that dialogue, and could also diminish the U.S. role in the crisis, and abort the scenario which Washington is drawing up for the future of the region.

The Arab masses, moreover, are calling on the Arab parties involved in the U.S. armada in the Gulf to abandon the trench in which they are now standing, after Israel has become a party contributing to the armament of this buildup, and after the United States has made the necessary arrangements to find Israel a vanguard position in that suspect trench. What is certain beyond doubt, however, is that these Arab parties now realize that they they are involved in blatant cooperation with Israel against an Arab country. What is also certain beyond doubt is that these Arab parties now realize that this involvement should not continue, even if it were unintentional.

We have to note that the trap of cooperation with Israel laid by Washington for these Arab parties could place them in an untenable position before the Arab masses. It could also open new horizons to the Israeli aggressors to continue their criminal practices in the occupied territories.

It is high time the Arabs take the initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis; it is also high time for them to end the foreign presence in the region, which gave the Israeli aggressors the opportunity to become involved in the armament there. The Arabs should reorganize their ranks, and Arab action should be unified to decisively confront Israeli arrogance in the occupied territories and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their national rights on their land.

Medicines, Relief Supplies Sent to Baghdad

JN0912085990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
9 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] Amman—Trucks loaded with medicines and relief supplies left Amman for Baghdad the day before yesterday.

Dr. Muhammad Matlaq al-Hadid, vice president and director general of relief operations, has said that the load included 58 parcels of relief supplies and medicines provided by the Danish Red Cross, 16 parcels sent by the U.S. Red Cross to U.S. guests in Iraq, and 27 parcels from the Japanese Red Cross to the Japanese nationals there.

The trucks also carried 623 parcels of relief supplies provided by the Japanese Rainioshib Global Company [name as published] to the Iraqi Red Cross as a contribution toward its humanitarian actions.

He said that the Jordanian Red Crescent had provided the necessary facilities and clearance for these supplies and delivered them overland to the Iraqi Red Crescent.

'Problems' Created by Kuwaiti Group's Visit

JN0812110890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
8 Dec 90 p 26

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Brief Remarks About the Kuwaiti Dialogue at the Royal Cultural Center"]

[Text] The presence of the popular Kuwaiti delegation in Amman last week has created endless problems. Most official, popular, and cultural forums have been opened to it, given that it represents an Arab people. However, it practically spoke on behalf of the ruling—or the once ruling—regime. The television cameras that accompanied the delegation and recorded every move, word, and handshake were not exactly popular; selected features

from the remarks and behavior of some people may appear on Saudi television to prove that there has been a "response" to the ideas of the Kuwaiti delegation.

To begin with, we note that the delegation was structured very smartly. It included Kuwaiti opposition leaders who enjoy a great deal of respect and appreciation. However, the delegation members used it all up in the interest of the Kuwaiti regime in al-Ta'if.

The Kuwaiti delegation has stated that it does not represent the Kuwaiti Government. It says that it differs with the government and and does not support the way it is plucking up courage behind the Americans. The delegation also declared that it rejects foreign concentrations in the Arabian Peninsula, opposes the use of force against Iraq, wants a peaceful solution to the crisis, and does not object to an Arab solution, although it denies the existence of such a solution.

All this is beautiful, but it is not enough. What is the use the delegation's declaration in Jordan that it is against foreign concentrations if it does not say so in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and al- Ta'if? We do not want statements for local consumption in Jordan; we demand complete condemnation of the foreign forces and those who invited them, sought refuge behind them, and threaten us with the might of these forces.

The Kuwaiti delegation has seen with its own eyes Jordan's free and democratic atmosphere. It has benefited from this atmosphere. It has seen pluralism working, and must have concluded that the Jordanian people are honest and spontaneous in their reading of the crisis one. Their position stems from a pan-Arab basis, not from enmity to the people of Kuwait.

There has been visible room for differing opinions, although there sometimes have been preplanned scenes skillfully played by Jordanians and Palestinians!

A word must be said to those who have been driven by the spirit of Arab hospitality to say things to please the guests even at the expense of truth and logic. I am particularly referring to the remarks made by Sulayman Suways and Emily Naffa', which could be considered as, saying something right to achieve something wrong. Both have taken the opportunity to equally condemn the United States and Iraq by deplorating the violation of democracy and human rights in Iraq!

We are certainly with democracy, participation, and human rights in Iraq and everywhere, but when half a million Iraqi Arab soldiers stand up to confront half a million imperialist U.S. soldiers, it would be regrettable to preach idealism, ignore priorities, and confuse cards in the name of democracy and human rights.

Those who find themselves in a state of confusion should see where the United States, Israel, Kissinger, the Camp David Arabs, and the oil shaykhs are standing so that they may know what the honest Arab stand should be.

Marwan Al-Qasim Confers With Malian Minister

JN0812151190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met at his office this morning with Ngolo Traore, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

They discussed bilateral ties and ways of developing them in all fields, developments of the Gulf crisis and efforts currently under way to solve it peacefully, as well as issues of common interest.

In a statement to reporters at the conclusion of the meeting, Traore said his country believes that the Islamic creed and inter-Islamic cooperation are capable of resolving all Islamic issues within the framework of the Islamic group. He expressed the hope that a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis will be attained. He added that he exchanged views with al-Qasim on all regional issues, affirming the need to give priority to all of these and make efforts to resolve them peacefully.

The guest minister welcomed Iraq's decision to allow foreign nationals to leave its territory if they so wish, adding that he considers this decision to be a positive move toward efforts to find a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Malian Minister Departs

JN0812172990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Malian Foreign Minister Ngolo Traore left Amman this afternoon ending a brief visit to Jordan. He conferred with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the latest regional developments and efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. On hand to see him off at the airport were Foreign Ministry officials.

Islamic Delegation Arrives To See King

JN0812164590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] A delegation of Islamic leaders arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Jordan. They will meet with His Majesty King Husayn to hear his views on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. The delegation's visit here is part of a tour taking in Baghdad, Riyadh, Cairo, Damascus, and Sanaa.

Information Minister Interviewed by BBC

JN0712124390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has said the new changing world now being formed will not wait for Israel's opinion and Israel will not be able to influence the issues it deals with, one of which is the idea of

holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East. He expressed his hope that the way will be cleared for a different international view in the future on solving the issues of the region in a just and comprehensive manner in light of the international strategic view of the region, the new developments resulting from the Gulf crisis, and the establishment of a new relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The information minister affirmed in an interview with the BBC the importance of holding an international peace conference to find a permanent and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that new facts in the Gulf and new developments are now starting to arouse greater interest in the Palestine question. They have, so far, also focussed attention on this question.

He said Jordan supports a policy that stresses the need to concentrate on all issues in the Middle East and attempts to solve them comprehensively and fully, whether the Gulf issue, the Palestine question, or the Lebanese cause.

The information minister welcomed the Iraqi decision to allow foreign nationals to leave Iraq and Kuwait and described it as a step in the right direction that could create an appropriate background for political dialogue on the Gulf crisis. He added that this step pushes the search for peace ahead. He noted that prolonged dialogue between the Iraqi leadership and a number of Arab leaders preceded the Iraqi decision. He said that, guiding all these discussions was the need to establish the appropriate circumstances and atmosphere to make the peace efforts a success.

Muslim Brotherhood To Get Cabinet Posts

NC1012110390 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, Dec 10 (AFP)—The Jordanian cabinet is to be reshuffled in the next few days to include four to five members of the Islamic fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood for the first time in the country's history, a government source disclosed Monday.

Among the posts expected to go to the fundamentalists is the Education Ministry, a position long sought by the Moslem Brotherhood.

More than half the members of the new cabinet will be drawn from parliament, the source said, in a reshuffle that follows the November 17 election as speaker of Moslem Brotherhood spokesman 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat.

Islamic fundamentalists, of whom 22 are members of the Brotherhood, gained 31 of the 80 seats in the Jordanian parliament in elections in November 1989.

'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the leader of the Moslem Brotherhood, told AFP that discussions were currently under way with Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

"If we reach an agreement we will take part in the government," he said.

He added that his associates wanted to "ensure military security and food sufficiency for Jordan, as well as a healthy educational climate for the new generation."

Government sources said Mr. Badran was now prepared to accept a Brotherhood demand for the education portfolio, a demand he had refused in the formation of his first cabinet last January.

The other cabinet seats likely to go to Moslem Brothers are Health, Labor, Social Affairs and Agriculture.

Birri Says No Agreement Reached on Al-Luwayzah

NC1012150090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri returned from Damascus last night. During the visit, Minister Birri met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli. The talks dealt with the issue of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

In an arrival statement Minister Birri said: The atmosphere during the talks was positive, but no agreement was reached on al-Luwayzah. He added that further discussions on this issue will be held in Beirut over the next two days in the presence of Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian forces' military intelligence in Lebanon. Minister Birri went on to say: We hope, God willing, that an agreement will be worked out.

Palestinians Reinforce in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1012161590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Security sources have monitored Palestinian military reinforcements in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Meanwhile, Minister Nabih Birri declared today that the negotiations with Hizballah officials in Damascus yesterday have failed to resolve the issue of the al-Luwayzah village in Iqlim al-Tuffah. This issue has been the hurdle impeding the implementation of the Damascus agreement [between Amal and Hizballah] and the Lebanese Army's deployment. [passage omitted]

Israeli Reinforcements Reported in South

NC1012170990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] In the resisting South, the Israeli occupation forces arrested Mahir 'Allul of 'Ayn Qinya today and carted him off to the al-Khiyam prison on charges of collaborating with the resistance.

Meanwhile, enemy forces continued to reinforce their positions along the contact lines in the liberated areas. Israeli armored cars, escorted by helicopter gunships, were seen heading toward the ridges overlooking al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah today.

An Israeli force conducted searches in the areas of al-Litani, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and the suburbs of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah. There have been no casualty reports.

Hizballah on Resistance, Government 'Favoritism'

NC1012083890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Haj Abu-Yasir, Hizballah Political Bureau chief, has declared that Hizballah's position toward the Lebanese Government depends on the latter's position toward the resistance against Israel and its allies.

In an interview with REUTER, Haj Abu-Yasir said the resistance must continue and we will not allow anyone to harm it in any way. The regime, he added, must express itself frankly and clearly about how it will deal with it. He added: We will not be an obstacle to any political endeavors that lead to the liberation of the south without submission to the enemy, but such endeavors will accomplish nothing unless they are backed by the resistance. He added: We do not believe that any sane person would drop his weapon in the face of occupation and satisfy himself with the political activity alone unless he is a loser or a conspirator.

Haj Abu-Yasir added that there is a loophole in UN Resolution 425 which the enemy could exploit to dictate its conditions to the government. If some believe that this resolution is sufficient to ensure the withdrawal of occupation troops without any conditions or security gains, then let them implement it. For our part we stick to our position, but we will not be an obstacle in the face of any political endeavor leading to the liberation of the south on that basis.

Regarding Greater Beirut and the regime's handling of the Phalangist [Lebanese] Forces, the Hizballah Political Bureau chief said: We have reservations about Greater Beirut. There are problems resulting from the way the regime is dealing with the Lebanese Forces. It is quite clear that there is favoritism, lack of evenhandedness, and lack of justice. What is necessary now is to eliminate the existing violations, to be serious about establishing security, and to treat all parties equally, he added.

Al-Shar' Discusses Crisis With U.S. Ambassador

JN1012171090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian. Their discussions focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict against the backdrop of the Geneva talks between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and President Bush on the subject, and subsequent contacts between Syria and the United States. As a result of consultations of the past few days over the UN Security Council debate, it is now understood that, as far as the Arab-Israeli conflict is concerned, the United States is committed to the following:

First, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

Second, finding the means to guarantee the safety of and protection for Palestinians under Israeli occupation, invoking the 1947 Geneva convention on all the occupied Arab land.

Third, the United States emphasizes its determination to support a vigorous peace process involving all the parties concerned and envisaging a comprehensive, just, and durable peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, predicated on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, taking into account the security of all the countries of the region and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Fourth, the United States supports the convening of an international conference at an appropriate date and in an appropriate framework to work out a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. At the same time, the United States stresses its categorical rejection of any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Fifth, the United States will give expression to these points at this evening's Security Council debate.

Al-Shar' Sends Note to UN on Human Rights

JN1012120190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday sent the following note to the UN secretary general on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which falls on the tenth of this month:

Today marks the 42nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On this important occasion, the Syrian Arab Republic congratulates the United Nations and the international community and participates in the celebration of this anniversary. On this day in 1948 the UN General Assembly issued this important declaration which constituted a great historic turning point in the life of mankind. The clauses of this declaration affirmed to the international community the need to respect and protect human rights and man's basic freedoms.

On independence, the Syrian Arab Republic hastened to join the United Nations. It was also one of the first to adhere to the resolutions and clauses of its agreements. It included in its Constitution and legislation laws and regulations that guarantee human rights and provide human beings with an honorable life.

The 1973 Constitution was one of the achievements of the Corrective Movement which struggler President Hafiz al-Asad pioneered to elevate the status of human rights and stress the sacred right to freedom. Citizens enjoy this right within a democratic and socialist state. It stipulates that education and work are the right of every individual. Therefore, the government offers free compulsory education and guarantees an intellectual or manual job for every citizen.

The Constitution stressed the equality of the rights and duties of citizens before the law. It secured all rights for women and paved the way for effective and equal participation alongside men in the political, economic, social, and educational fields. It also stressed the freedom of expression and doctrines, unionist liberties, and protection of the right of organization.

All these Syrian legislations and laws are in full harmony with international agreements and actions, among the most important of which are the two international charters on civil, political, economic, and social rights, as well as the international agreement on abolishing all forms of racial discrimination.

The disturbing factor is that four decades after the issuing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, some nations are still under the grip of the ugliest forms of colonialism and suffer from all forms of oppression, terrorism, and indiscriminate practices such as detention, torture, expulsion, and murder. The racist Israeli authorities continue to occupy the Arab territories by force and apply all forms of oppression, injustice, and tyranny, thereby violating all international norms and charters and disregarding the simplest human rights and principles included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The valiant intifadah and the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian people, as well as the resistence of our people in the Arab occupied Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, have affirmed their rejection of the occupation and their determination to struggle for their rights, especially their right to freedom and self-determination.

In South Africa, the racist regime of the Pretoria Government continues to apply racist measures, depriving the African majority of their human rights by implementing the racial discrimination policy, apartheid—a policy which international agreement considers a crime against humanity. The Syrian Arab Republic was one of the first countries to join this agreement in expression of its strong condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination, especially the apartheid policy.

We in Syria call on the international community to confront the inhuman practices which the racial and Zionist forces continue to apply. We ask the United Nations to adopt the appropriate sanctions against these measures in accordance with the United Nations' Charter.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Thanks Cuban University Group

LD0912064490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0455 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 8, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], received a number of Cuban lecturers and experts whose term of service on the basis of the protocol of cooperation and at Kabul University and RA Public Health Ministry, reports press office of the Presidency.

Najibullah thanked the Cuban lecturers and experts at Kabul University and Public Health Ministry of the RA and appreciated their role in training national cadres.

Refugees Return From Iran, Pakistan

LD1012071190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, December 9, BAKHTAR—About 50 Afghan refugees who had gone to Iran and Pakistan, by availing national reconciliation policy, recently have returned to their abodes in Qandahar and Badghis Provinces.

The returnees after receiving state assistance, were transferred to their native places by states expenses.

More Refugees From Iran

LD1112063690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 10, BAKHTAR—More than 320 Afghan refugees who had gone earlier to Iran and were leading a miserable life there returned via Islam Qrala border to their homeland in Herat Province recently by availing of the national reconciliation policy.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that the refugees after receiving necessary state aids were transferred to their abodes in centre and environs of the Herat Province and resumed their peaceful life again.

Foreign Affairs Minister Receives UN Envoy

LD0912192890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs, met in his office this afternoon with His Excellency Benin Sevan, assistant secretary general of the United Nations and special envoy of the UN Secretary General. During the meeting, His Excellency Benin Sevan furnished information on the results of his contacts and talks on a political solution to the Afghan problem with related sides. 'Abdul Wakil, in response, thanked His Excellency the secretary general of the United Nations and Benin Sevan, his special envoy, for their persistent efforts to apply the aims and principles of the United Nations to implementation of the UN General Assembly's Resolutions 43, 44, and 45 on Afghanistan.

During the meeting both sides talked about the further effectiveness and acceleration of UN efforts to achieve a political and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem.

According to another report, Benin Sevan, assistant secretary general and special envoy of the UN secretary general, arrived in Kabul for a series of talks with leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan this afternoon. He was received at Kabul International Airport by the official in charge of the office of the secretary general of Afghanistan-Pakistan and a number of senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Najibullah Meets Envoy

LD1012173590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The presidential press office reports esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this morning at the Presidential Palace met with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy of the UN secretary-general and organizer of UN assistance to Afghanistan. The meeting was also attended by Vice President Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi. Esteemed Najibullah congratulated His Excellency Benon Sevan on his appointment as organizer of UN assistance to Afghanistan. Having praised the efforts of His Excellency Sadroddin Aghan, who served some time in that post, Esteemed Najibullah expressed hope that UN economic and humanitarian assistance to our country will expand and become increasingly effective in the future. He also hoped that the UN will play a more active role in the reconstruction of the war-torn Afghanistan.

Then, His Excellency Benon Sevan reported to the esteemed president of Afghanistan on UN efforts toward a political solution for the issue of Afghanistan, and on assistance toward dialogue among the involved Afghan sides.

In return, esteemed Najibullah explained recent developments in the country and the extensive efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to end war and ensure nationwide peace. Having stressed on the importance of the UN's role in the political solution of regional conflicts, esteemed Najibullah expressed hopes that the secretary-general of the UN will expand his efforts to find a peaceful political solution to the Afghanistan issue.

Najibullah Meets 'Arafat Special Envoy

LD1012182190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Presidential Press Office reports that Afghan President Esteemed Najibullah met this afternoon at the presidential office with His Excellency Abu Khalid, special envoy of His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine.

During this meeting—which was also attended by Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president; and Jum'ah Naji Muhammad Isma'il, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State Palestine to the Republic of Afghanistan—His Excellency Abu Khalid presented to Esteemed Najibullah a message from the Palestinian head of state and a sword inscribed with a sacred Koranic verse. [Koranic verse in Arabic omitted] This was a gift from His Excellency 'Arafat and a symbol of the righteous struggle of the Palestinian people, which was accepted by the president of Afghanistan with thanks. He considered it an outstanding sign of the trust of the brave people of Palestine and their struggle leadership toward the people and leadership of Afghanistan.

His Excellency Abu Khalid approved the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the realization of national reconciliation and praised the several, persistent measures by the republic which will naturally contribute to the solution of the Afghanistan issue. He also expressed thanks for the principled stance of the Republic of Afghanistan's leadership toward the Palestinian people and their righteous cause.

During the meeting, both sides emphasized the need for dialogue and negotiation among Afghans and a peaceful, political solution of the Afghanistan issue.

Brigadier General Salang Dies in Kabul

BK1012124390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec.—Brig. [Brigadier] General Mohammad Yusuf Salang, Commander of 2d Division of the Kabul Army who was injured by the Mujahidin in a battle in Kariz-e Mir died in Kabul military hospital.

Brig Juma Shah, Commander of 28th Regiment of the Kabul Army was shot dead by some unidentified persons near his residence in Microroyan, Kabul.

Meanwhile Mujahidin attacked Kabul regime's military posts in Alchin, Konduz killing Assistant Commander of the Konduz civil Sarandoi along with 34 militiamen. One tank and ten military vehicles were also burned in the attack.

In retaliation, the Communist troops targeted the local residents, destroying 17 houses and killing six children and nine women.

Kabul Reports Nationwide Military Actions

LD0612195890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] During the past three days, war-mongering extremists fired long-range surface-to-surface missiles at security posts and residential areas of Mehterlam City, Laghman Province, martyring nine people, including women and children, and wounding 21 others.

BIA's [BAKHTAR Information Agency] Military Section reports that, as a result of the impact of these missiles, nine shops and four institutes were partially destroyed, and three shops were set on fire. One missile hit the communal mosque of Mehterlam City, causing great damage.

The armed forces units in Laghman Province in retaliation shattering strike, resulting in 36 war-mongering extremists being killed, including two Saudi Wahabis and five ringleaders of the extremists. Three Wahabi mercenaries, including nine ringleaders of the extremists, and 58 extremists were wounded.

As a result of the artillery strike by the armed forces, 3 BM-12 units, 3 BM-1 units, 5 mortars, 3 DShKs, 3 Zk-1, 2 recoilless guns, 7 rocket launchers, 53 light weapons, 3 ammunition stores, and 21 trenches were destroyed. The armed forces units in Laghman are carrying out their national and patriotic duties with high combat morals.

A convoy carrying weapons and ammunition for extremists was yesterday destroyed as a result of strikes by the armed forces southwest of Qalat City. BIA's Military section reports that, as a result of the strikes, four trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition and a number of its guards were killed.

The organs of the State Security Ministry carried out mopping up operations today around Lalandar area. BIA's military section reports that, as a result of these operations, 10.5 kgs of explosive substances and 100 antivehicle mines, which were stored by elements belonging to the extremist group of Rabani for carrying out terrorist and subversive activities, were uncovered and seized with the all-round cooperation of the local people.

In continuation of differences and revengeful attacks between the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani, severe clashes recently took place in Nejrab District, Kapisa Province, between the two rival groups.

BIA's military section reports that both rival groups have used heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles against each other in these clashes, resulting in the death of seven people from both sides and 13 wounded. Also, 22 individuals belonging to Gulbuddin's group have been captured by the rival group along with their weapons and ammunition. As a result of the weapons used by the extremists against each other, a number of houses were destroyed and great material loss was inflicted on the local people.

Kabul Garrison Units Hit 'Extremists'

LD0512172590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Warmonger extremists' positions and concentrations south and west of Kabul Province today came under crushing blows of General Command units of Kabul garrison, and the extremists suffered heavy losses.

The BIA [BAKHTAR Information Agency] Military Section reports: As a result of the blows, a number of the extremists including a Wahabi Saudi were crushed. One Sakhr set, one BM-12 set, one BM-1 set, two mortars, and a large amount of their heavy-weapons ammunition were destroyed. Units of the armed forces discharged their national duties with high combat morale and patriotism in the aforementioned actions.

Kabul Police Confiscate Rockets, Other Arms

LD1012073190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 9, BAKHTAR—About ten extremist were captured alive during purging operations conducted by the contingents and detachments of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] Armed Forces in Totak District, Ghowr Province, today.

Report adds, the state security organs conducted mopping up operations in the Lalandar region, Kabol Province today in order to prevent extremists terroristic actions.

Based on another report, units and detachments of the government armed forces, deployed in the Vardak Province, dealt crushing blows on firing spots of Gulbuddin extremist groupings during which a number of extremists were either crushed or injured.

Likewise, a bandit attack of the extremist groupings of Gulbuddin was pushed back yesterday by the heavy strikes of the personnel of the security posts in the Kutali Babus area of Lowgar Province.

As a result of these strikes two Kalashnikov, 49 rockets launcher shells and thousands of bullets of light weapons of the extremists were confiscated.

As a result of these operations a large quantities of enemies assorted weapons were either seized or destroyed.

Also, 21 surface-to-surface Sakhr-30 type American made rockets, 10 missiles, a set of rocket detonator, 18 recoiless cannon shells, 10 boxes of Kalashnikov bullets, 3 shells of rocket launcher and 4 mortars of the extremists were confiscated today in the Khakijabar Subdistrict of Kabol Province in a mopping up operation carried out by Kabol Police there.

Report on Security Situation in Laghman Province

LD0712225390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Both today and yesterday the warmongering extremists fired long range surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas and security posts in Mehterlam city, Laghman province. These attacks did not cause any loss of life but they do cause financial dammage.

BAKHTAR's Military Section reports that the units and companies of the Armed Forces subjected the extremists to retaliatory attacks, as a result of which a number of the extremists including three ringleaders of the Gulbuddin extremist group, Mer Baz, Aziz, and Sayda Gol were crushed and a number of others including five of their ringleaders were injured.

Also, as a result of these attacks, two BM-1, two mortars, a ZK-1, two DASHKs, and an ammunition depot were destroyed. The united and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Laghman Province carry out their patriotic duties with high combat morale and patriotism.

Bangladesh

Ershad Regime Prosecution, Punishment Urged

Opposition Demands Trial

BK0712163990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, opposition parties have demanded a trial of the former president, General Ershad, and his associates for the misdeeds committed by them during the last nine years.

In a press statement in Dhaka, the National Awami Party today demanded action against them according to the law of the land. The chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Begum Khaleda Zia, said General Ershad and his associates should not go unpunished for their misdeeds.

Meanwhile, the chief of the Bangladesh Army, Lieutenant General Nuruddin Khan, said that the Army will wholeheartedly support the move to restore democracy in the country and see that elections to Parliament are held smoothly.

Awami Leader Calls For Punishment

BK0812163490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Awami [League] Chief and Eight-Party Alliance Leader Sheikh Hasina visited the residences of Mohammad Hanif at Azimpur and Murad at Enayetganj in Dhaka today. They laid down their lives during the recent movement for establishing democracy. Sheikh Hasina consoled the members of the bereaved family and expressed sympathy.

Addressing a gathering at Azimpur, the Awami League chief called upon the people to extend full cooperation to the interim government to help establish a democratically-elected government. She urged the people not to take in their hands and said crimes of the ousted regime and its associates would not go unpunished.

BNP Leader Demands Trials

BK1012163490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] An emergency meeting of the National Executive Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] was held in Dhaka today. Addressing the meeting, BNP chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, called for united effort to restore democracy in the country. She said the main objective of her party's movement is restoration of democracy and the end of autocracy (?which has) paved the way for a democratic movement. Begum Khaleda Zia assured the acting president of all cooperation in his effort to hold free and fair elections for transfer of power to the people's representatives. Begum Khaleda Zia demanded trial of those found guilty of corruption and misdeeds.

Ershad Views Possible Arrest

BK0912160490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 9 (AFP)—Ousted Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad said Sunday he might try to make a political comeback if the situation in the country "improved."

Mr. Ershad, 60, speaking only five days after his ouster, said that if the political climate allowed, his Jatiya Party would contest parliamentary elections, and if it won he himself would "run again for the presidency."

Mr. Ershad's statements, carried by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Bengali language service and monitored here late Sunday, came as pressure mounted here for his arrest and trial for corruption and abuse of power.

Asked in the telephone interview to his home in Dhaka's military cantonement area about the strident calls for his arrest, he said "the people will judge whether I was wrong or right; it is up to the people to judge.

"If the situation improves after December 16, or before, I will start campaigning for my party," he said.

December 16 is celebrated as "Victory Day" in Bangladesh, and marks the country's independence from Pakistan in a 1971 war.

Mr. Ershad also told the BBC that he did not regret resigning December 4 after seven weeks of massive countrywide protests against his rule, and that he had taken the decision when "the political situation went out of my control."

"I am in touch with my party leaders and workers," he added.

Asked if arms were held by his cadre, he said "I don't believe in the politics of arms; the coming election will prove this."

He told the interviewer that since he handed over power to an interim president Thursday he had been "leading the life of a former president, writing poems and also a book on Palestine."

On the same broadcast the BBC asked Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed whether he would order Mr. Ershad's arrest and trial as demanded Friday by the opposition parties instrumental in his ouster.

Mr. Ahmed, in his first public comment on the demands, replied that if popular pressure mounted he might be forced to consult his Advisory Council on a decision.

The broadcast came as a shock in Dhaka, the scene of a mass "victory" rally Sunday at which the crowd of some 10,000 to 15,000 including students shouted "Arrest Ershad. Bury Ershad."

"He is totally out of touch with reality," said a senior civil servant.

The interim president, who is charged with holding elections within 90 days, was called on Friday by the country's three main opposition alliances to bring Mr. Ershad to trial and stop him leaving the country.

The alliances are Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League group, the alliance headed by Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the five-party leftist alliance.

"It was very unfortunate that such an interview was allowed at a time when people have been demanding his arrest and trial," said a senior BNP leader.

"By now he (Mr. Ershad) should have been arrested and an investigation launched," he added.

"We are surprised... Such comments could only be made by an absolutely shameless man at a time when the whole nation has been asking for his arrest and trial," said Awami League General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury.

"After everything that happened does this man want another bloodbath in this country, or anarchy?" she asked refering to the seven-week long anti-Ershad movement that paralysed the country and left some 100 dead.

Ms. Chowdhury added Mr. Ershad appeared not to realise that thousands of people had blocked the airport after his fall to prevent him leaving the country and laid a virtual siege of entrances to the cantonement where he lives.

A pro-Moscow leftist politician said Mr. Ershad had the democratic right to say what he did but that "he should have come out of hiding and said it publicly."

Ershad Ready To Face Trial

OW1012125990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec. 10 KYODO—Former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Monday said he was

ready to face trial for alleged wrongdoings during his eight-year reign and ruled out that he may seek political asylum outside the country.

Ershad, a retired army general, resigned last Thursday after seven weeks of massive street protests.

In a telephone interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Ershad said he stepped down to bring normalcy to the country and minimize peoples' suffering.

He said he wanted to contest elections and hoped that he be provided with that opportunity. "I have a democratic right, and I have a party," he said.

Ershad said no one should stop him from participating in the forthcoming parliamentary elections which are expected to be held within three months.

"If I did wrong, people won't vote for me. It is very simple," he said.

He said he is an ex-president, and not a "convict" to be disqualified to contest an election. He reiterated that if he had committed any crime he should be punished accordingly.

He said distribution of leaflets and propaganda against him were aimed at barring him from contesting in the elections and to return to public life. This is unfair, he said.

Ershad refuted reports that he contacted various diplomatic missions to seek political asylum. He said, "This is my country, why should I go out, I have not done any wrong."

He said if, however, the court decides to try him, "I will face it in this country."

He said he relinquished power in a ceremonial manner with the hope that a free and fair election will be held and he should be given a chance to contest it.

"I am not obstructed by anybody to come out, nor am I under house arrest," he said.

But Ershad said he has no intention to return to public life immediately.

He said although the Jatiya Party had a recent setback, he was hopeful that his party would do "fairly well" in the election, if allowed to participate.

Ershad said Japan had been a great friend to Bangladesh during his tenure, and would continue to provide economic assistance to his country in future.

Marches for Ershad Arrest

BK1012080090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, thousands of people have marched to the capital, Dhaka, demanding the arrest and execution of the former president, General Ershad. Opposition leaders have repeated their call for putting General Ershad on trial on charges of corruption and violently suppressing the movement for democracy.

Meanwhile, the former president, in an interview to BBC, has made it clear that he intends to stand in the parliamentary elections. He said that he had nothing to apologize for.

Acting President Forms Council of Advisers

BK0912063490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president of Bangladesh, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has constituted a six-member council of advisers to assist him in the functioning of the interim government. The council consists of retired bureaucrats, doctors, educationists, and a retired Army major.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shahabuddin also discussed with leaders of the main opposition alliances various issues facing the nation.

Advisory Council Named

BK0912130890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Acting President Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed appointed a six-member President's Council of Advisers Saturday night. The advisers are: Ex-Finance Secretary Ghafuruddin Mahmud; Ex-Foreign Secretary Fakhruddin Ahmed; President of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr. M.A. Majeed; Ex-Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqi; Ex-Inspector General of Police G. Kibria; and Ex-Chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation retired Major Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam. The President's Council of Advisers will be expanded within a day or two.

Council Expanded to Nine

BK0912163090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president has expanded his Council of Advisers to nine by appointing three new members. The new advisers are: Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Justice M.A. Khaliq, and Professor Rahman Pradhan. Seven advisers took their oath of office at Bangabhavan [president's house] in Dhaka today. The oath was administered by the acting president. Those who took [the] oath today are Ghafuruddin Mahmud, Fakhruddin Ahmed, Dr. M.A. Majeed, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, G. Kibria, retired Major Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam, and Justice M.A. Khaliq. Professor Rahman Pradhan and Barrister Ishtiyaq Ahmed did not take their oath today on personal grounds.

Ministerial Portfolios Assigned

BK1012144090 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, allocated the portfolios to the newly-appointed members of the Council of Advisers Sunday [9 December] night. The portfolios are:

Finance—Mr. Kafiluddin Ahmed

Foreign Affairs—Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed

Health and Family Welfare—Dr. M.A. Majeed

Education—Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqi

Law and Justice—Justice Mohammad Abdul Khaleque

Communications—Mr. A.B.M.G. Kibria

Civil Aviation, Tourism and Shipping—Major, Retired, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam

The portfolios of two other advisers will be given following their swearing-in.

'Sacking' Ershad Loyalists

BK1012123690 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Dec 90

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] We turn first to Bangladesh where tension is still high after weeks of violence and unrest which cluminated in the downfall of President Ershad last week. In the latest move, dozens of officials loyal to him have now been sacked by the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. There is growing speculation that other supporters of the ex-president may be arrested and tried. At the same time, students who played a key role in Mr. Ershad's fall from power have warned that they intend to march on the main military compound in Dhaka where he has been living. Reporting from Dhaka is Humphrey Huxley:

[Begin Huxley recording] In a sweeping move, President Shahabuddin Ahmed has sacked the mayors of Bangladesh's four main cities, together with 61 out of the country's 64 district officials, most of whom were members of former President Ershad's Jatiya Party. Many stand accused of making millions of dollars from business contracts and aid projects carried out in their areas. He then went on to dismiss some 60 senior executives from state control banks and finance institutions, most of them Ershad's MP's [members of parliament] or retired officers from the armed forces. The sudden move carried out by what is in effect a caretaker government less than a week after Mr. Ershad was forced from power has taken many by surprise, and there is now speculation that the drive against his supporters may move on to the lowest level, to local government, in order to disband the armed gangs allegedly organized by Mr. Ershad to intimidate his political opponents.

But the pressure that the former president himself be punished has not eased. Students leaders described as seriously provocative his announcement on Sunday that he would try to win back power in elections. They have demanded that his conspiratorial activities being carried out from a house in Dhaka's military compound be stopped, and in their latest move, they have said they will march on the compound on Wednesday [12 December] if he is not arrested by then. [end recording]

Council Removes District Officials

BK1012143990 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The government has decided to remove the present chairmen of all the zila parishads [district councils] excepting the three hill district local government parishads. The government has also appointed deputy commissioners as acting chairmen of the respective zila parishads in addition to their duties. A decision to this effect was taken at the first time [as heard] of the council of advisers held at Bangabhaban in Dhaka Sunday [9 December]. Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, presided.

The council of advisers also decided to repeal the provision from the Zila Parishad Act 1988 relating to the appointment of the nominated members and women members of the zila parishad. The council decided to appoint divisional commissioners as ex-officio mayors of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Khulna city corporations and make appropriate arrangements in the relevant ordinance.

Shahabuddin Calls for Discipline Enforcement

BK0812155690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Acting President Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has said that he will make all-out efforts to hold free and fair parliamentary elections in the country for establishing a truly democratic government fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people. He was addressing the secretaries of the government at the Bangladeshi secretariat in Dhaka today. Justice Shahabuddin said Bangladesh is a sovereign democratic country where people would exercise their right through their elected representatives. He sought full cooperation of the entire administrative machinery when holding the elections in an impartial manner. The acting president directed the secretaries to run the administration firmly and enforce discipline at all levels. He said law and order must be maintained at any cost. Justice Shahabuddin said economic activities and production in mills and factories must be resumed in full swing. He said Bangladesh is a poor country and austerity must be maintained in all spheres of activities to rebuild its economy. He advised the secretaries to put forward their suggestions for the smooth functioning of their respective ministries. A number of secretaries participated in the discussion. The principal secretary to the president, A.H.S.K. Sadeq;

cabinet secretary, M.K. Anwar; and members of the planning [commission] were present.

Asks Police To Restore Order

BK0912164790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has directed the police officers to work with full devotion, dedication, and sincerity to further improve the law and order situation in the country. He issued the directives while addressing the senior police officers at the president's secretariat in Dhaka today. Mr. Justice Shahabuddin said law and order must be fully restored for holding a free, fair, and impartial parliamentary election. He asked them not to hesitate in taking strong action against the lawbreakers. The police officers, he added, will have to work hard in the coming days for achieving the goal. The acting president expressed the hope that the police officers should successfully play their role in this critical juncture of national history. Inspector General of Police Tayebuddin Ahmed was also present.

Overall law and order situation in the country was reviewed at a meeting of the senior police officials in Dhaka today. The inspector general of police, Tayebuddin Ahmed, presided. The inspector general asked police officials to gear up their activities in establishing law and order in the country.

Interim President Confers With Political Leaders

BK0912130790 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed held meetings with the leaders of the three opposition alliances in Dhaka Sunday. During the meeting with eight-party alliance chief, Sheikh Hasina, he discussed different important issues. The acting president had a similar meeting with seven-party alliance leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, and discussed with her important national issues. The leaders of five-party alliance also called on the acting president at his residence Saturday night. They discussed with him the current political situation in the country.

Leader of Jamaat-i-Islami called on the acting president, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, in Dhaka Sunday. They exchanged views and extended their full cooperation to him. The acting president said the law and order is an essential prerequisite for holding a free and fair election. He also sought cooperation of all in discharging his responsibilities.

Opposition, Military Figures Support Elections

BK1012174090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The leaders of Panch Daliya Mocrha [five-party alliance] under the leadership of its chairman, Ainuddin, called on the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, in Dhaka today. The acting president emphasized the need for maintaining law and order to ensure peaceful conditions for holding free and fair elections to parliament and transfer of power to the people's representatives. Mr. Justice Shahabuddin sought the cooperation of all political alliances and parties in this regard. The alliance leaders assured him of all cooperation and [words indistinct] memorandum to him.

Earlier, the chief of the Jatiya Janata Party, Sheikh Asad, along with other leaders of the party, called on the acting president. They discussed the present situation in the country. Mr. Justice Shahabuddin told him that his prime responsibility is to hold free and fair elections.

The chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed, also called on the acting president. The air chief gave the assurance of his full cooperation to the acting president in holding a free and fair parliamentary election.

Senior officers of the Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] also met the acting president. Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed sought the cooperation of all law-enforcing agencies including BDR in holding free and fair elections. He asked BDR officials to strengthen their activities in border areas to curb smuggling. The BDR director general Major General Abdul Latif was present.

Shahabuddin Asks Army Cooperation

BK1112130890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has called upon the armed forces to extend all out cooperation to his caretaker government to fulfill its [word indistinct] by holding a free and fair election within three months. Addressing the senior officials of the armed forces at the Army headquarters at Dhaka cantonment Tuesday [11 December], he emphasized on full restoration of law and order for holding the election peacefully. With this end in view, the acting president urged the law enforcing agencies to recover illegal arms. He said they have to be strict and impartial in recovering those arms. The acting president asked them to maintain complete neutrality during elections.

Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed paid tributes to the armed forces for their contribution to the country's liberation war.

Boards of Banks, Financial Bodies Dissolved

BK1012171090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The government has dissolved the management boards of all nationalized banks, insurance companies and financial institutions. The new management boards will be constituted soon. The decision was taken at the first meeting of the council of advisers held in Dhaka last night. The acting president was in the chair.

Hasina Urges Harmony With Interim Government

BK1012165590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to extend their fullest cooperation to the caretaker government in its task of holding free and fair election for the establishment of a representative government. Speaking at a gathering at Nayatala Sishu Bagh in the capital this afternoon, she asked the people to be on guard against any conspiracy to foil the achievement of the democratic movement. Later, Sheikh Hasina visited the houses at Magbazar of two persons killed in the recent movement and consoled their family members.

Some Tension Reported in Government Offices

BK0812092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal activities have resumed in Dhaka after 10 days. Offices and schools reopened today. However, some tension is reported in some government offices.

The acting president, Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, has appealed to the students to return to their schools and universities. The students of the Dhaka University, which opened today, have planned celebrations.

'Activists' Attack Vice President's Home

BK1012155790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 10 (AFP)—A group of angry young political activists attacked and fire-bombed the home of Bangladesh's former vice president here late Monday but no casualties were reported, police said.

The activists from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) tossed home-made Molotov cocktails into Moudud Ahmed's residence in Dhaka's posh Gulshan area, smashing some windows, police said.

They were unable to enter but lit a bonfire ouside the gates, they said.

Mr. Ahmed and his family, like most former associates of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad who stepped down last week in the face of nationwide protests against his rule, has left his house for fear of mob violence.

Mr. Ershad is under what military sources describe as "protective custody" in Dhaka's military cantonment area.

Anger has been mounting here since Sunday night, when Mr. Ershad told an interviewer he was considering a political comeback.

Students and opposition groups Monday stepped up calls for Mr. Ershad's arrest and trial, and a youth rally late in the day called on the military to expel him from the cantonment within 24 hours.

Indian, ROK Envoys Meet Begum Khaleda Zia

BK1012172990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Indian High Commissioner Srinivasan and South Korean Ambassador Yi Chae-chun called on BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chief and leader of seven-party alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia, in Dhaka today. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and international issues.

India

Commentary on Gulf Parties; Futility of War

BK0912122590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Commentary by station commentator S.K. Nayyar: "Negotiations Predominate Guns in the Gulf"]

[Text] After threats and counterthreats for war and destructions in west Asia, we now hear proposals for dialogue to sort out the west Asian crisis. The developments over the last 100 days when Iraqi forces in their sudden swoop occupied Kuwait are a pointer that both America and its allies and Iraq have understood the futility of war. Both are wanting something to keep their face politically alive. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has now called for the release of all foreign hostages, just one day after formally accepting a U.S. diplomatic overture. The proposal to free all hostages in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait follows an offer by U.S. President George Bush to talk with an Iraqi envoy and send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad. An estimated 950,000 [figure as heard] foreigners, mostly Asian, remain stranded in Iraq and Kuwait. Saddam banned their departure in an attempt to ward off attack from the U.S.-dominated multinational army deployed in the Gulf region after his invasion of Kuwait.

With this announcement, Iraq had complied with one of three major demands of the UN Security Council. The other two are the immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of its legitimate government. The U.S. senator, Mr. Richard Lugar, a Republican who once chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House, has welcomed the announcement by saying that it will make a very positive atmosphere for the talks and would accelerate the negotiating track. I cannot imagine a better step to improve the climate for negotiation than to release those hostages, said Mr. Hamilton [not further identified].

On the other side, the United States also appears getting flexible because of various pressures within and outside the country and has reportedly proposed that the United Nations Security Council may consider convening a

broad West Asia peace conference. This will be a face-saving for Saddam Husayn who had hitherto been looking for something to show to the world, particularly the Arabs, that he has played and worked for the Arab cause.

Kuwait Airways Resumes Flights To Bombay

BK1012113790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Kuwait Airways has resumed its operations to India. A Boeing 727 flight arrived at Bombay from Bahrain this morning. This is the first flight of the airways after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on the 2d of August. The airways has set up its base in Bahrain and would operate its flights to London and New York. The flights will operate to Bombay on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Ship Scheduled for Release From Iraq

BK1112093090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The Indian vessel, Vishwa Siddhi, is likely to set sail for home from the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr tomorrow with about 60 stranded Indians. The state-owned vessel had been sent to Iraq in September this year with food supplies for the stranded Indians in Kuwait. Vishwa Siddhi is likely to dock at the port of Dubayy from where the evacuees are to be picked up by Air India for their return journey home.

U.S., EC Criticized; GATT Pause Hailed

BK1112145790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The commerce [and law and justice] minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has welcomed the brief reprieve before the final agreement on the Uruguay trade talks, for it would give India time to formulate a proper strategy for renegotiation. Addressing a press conference in the capital after his return from Brussels, Dr. Swamy criticized the National Front government for its alleged failure to safeguard India's interests at the Uruguay Round. Dr. Swamy said that India will not agree for trade related intellectual property rights and trade related investment measures to be brought under the purview of GATT under pressure. Our correspondent, Vineeta Dipak, spoke to Dr. Swamy about the outcome of the Brussels talks.

[Begin recording] [Dipak] Dr. Swamy, why do you feel the ministerial-level talks in Brussels failed?

[Swamy] The reason it failed is that the talks from the very beginning got bogged down as a bilateral issue between the United States and the EEC over the issue of agricultural subsidies, and as a consequence the multi-lateral character of the conference and the multi-subject character of the conference was forgotten.

[Dipak] What about India's position?

[Swamy] India is working in three areas to gain a benefit. One is in agricultural exports. We expect that if there is an agreement on agricultural subsidies, we will gain. And will be able to promote agricultural exports in a big way so that our rural areas can also participate in international trade. And the second area is textiles. We expect to double our textile exports by eight years to 10 years. And the third thing is by an agreement on services. We hope that our skilled labor and our companies will be able to go to developed countries to outbid and win contracts in those areas where our labor will have superiority.

[Dipak] What about other developing countries? Did India get enough support from them?

[Swamy] We found it a little difficult to get going with them. But now that the ice has been broken, in the next few months, I think, the developing countries would rally to India because, after all, we are the old hand at leading the Third World countries. [end recording]

In the press conference, the law and justice minister also said that a team of politically neutral and efficient officers should replace the existing CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] team probing the Bofors case. He criticized the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, for not laying the Bofors case files before parliament.

Commentary Reviews Developments in Bangladesh

BK0712141890 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Commentary by Sanat Mukherjee, All India Radio's Dhaka correspondent]

[Text] In Bangladesh the stage is set for a change of guards again. During 19 years of its history, the country saw six presidents as the head of the state and two prime ministers as the head of the government. This time, the popular upsurge for true democracy has center-staged two women leaders for the first time. The leader of eight-party alliance and chief of Awami League, Sheikh Hasina; and leader of the seven-party combine and chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], Begum Khaleda Zia, have described the very decision by President Ershad to quit power in the face of fierce countrywide campaign by the three major opposition alliances and some other political parties as the victory of the people. The people were fighting for democracy since Lieutenant General Ershad usurped power eight years ago in 1982 on the pretext of restoring law and order in the country. Although several attempts to oust autocratic ruler General Ershad ended in futility, the people continued the struggle till the final victory, freeing the country from the clutches of military misrule, opposition leaders said.

The opposition received a boost when the student community, responding to the need of the hour, buried their differences and formed the all-party students unity to be

at the vanguard of the movement, gained its momentum and people from all walks of life identified themselves with the cause of (?unallowed) democracy in the country free from autocratic trimmings. [sentence as heard]. The resentment of common people against President Ershad symbolizing military rule has gradually snowballed into a mass upsurge roping in all professional groups, including lawyers, doctors, journalists, workers, and businessmen.

According to political analysts, the attempts to distract the movement by engineering communal disturbances and divide the students by injecting some unscrupulous elements boomeranged. Added to this was imposition of the state of emergency, the third in President Ershad's rule. So, with the announcement of General Ershad to step down, the entire Bangladesh went delirious with joy, hoping the country would at least be relieved of autocratic rule which ruined the country for the last nine years. Since Tuesday midnight, Dhaka is witnessing the celebration of victory over military rule with patriotic songs, street corner meetings, processions carrying the national flag, portraits of Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and former president Ziaur Rahman. Cartoon sketches of President Ershad dot the streets. The people are found comparing the present celebration with that of the victory day festivity in 1971. Both the Awami League leader, Sheikh Hasina, and the BNP chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, hailed the developments as victory of the people. Both urged the people to maintain law and order in the country and not to be revengeful so as to ensure final victory.

The Bangladesh President General H.M. Ershad on Thursday formally handed over power to the chief justice Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed. Mr. Ahmed, the consensus candidate of the opposition for the position of interim head of state, took oath as acting president of Bangladesh. The three major opposition alliances, which unanimously chose Mr. Shahabuddin as the consensus candidate to take power from General Ershad to head the caretaker government, also went into session on Thursday to take decisions on the developing situation. In response to President Ershad's summoning the 300-member parliament on tomorrow, Saturday, to ratify the election of Mr. Shahabuddin as the acting president, the opposition on Wednesday had called for an immediate dissolution of parliament, cabinet, and the resignation of General Ershad.

The acting president will be entrusted with the job of mainly to conduct elections, parliamentary polls preceding the presidential elections. The opposition alliances are now in a jubiliant mood to achieve a major victory for which they have been struggling for so long. They have agreed to revert toward a sovereign parliament accountable to the people instead of the present presidential system with all powers vested in the president and the ministry acting at his behest. The intended changeover needs a constitutional amendment to invalidate the fourth amendment which changed the parliamentary system as envisaged in the original 1972 constiution. But, the future can only say whether it can be achieved sooner.

High Court To Begin Hearings in Bofors Case

BK1112063090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The Delhi High Court is to hear arguments today on the plea of the Janata Dal and some other political parties for impedement in a petition seeking the question of investigations in the Bofors gun deal. Mr. Justice M.K. Chawla decided to reconsider the plea following a direction yesterday by the Supreme Court that the judgement in the case should be given after disposal of the petitions of the political parties. The solicitor general, Mr. Anand Devgiri, will appear for the government in the case as the additional solicitor general, Mr. Tulsi, has been withdrawn following threats to his life.

The Janata Dal has criticized the law minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, for the manner in which the government's stand has been presented in the Bofors case and demanded that he be relieved of the portfolio. The party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, also wanted action against the additional solicitor general, Mr. Tulsi.

Meanwhile, the law and justice minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has said that a team of politically neutral and efficient officers should replace the existing CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] team probing the Bofors case. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, he criticized the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, for not laying the Bofors case filed before the parliament. Replying to questions regarding the involvement of Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Arun Nehru in the negotiations, Dr. Swamy felt that those who knew about the case should volunteer to cooperate with the CBI to establish the truth.

Indefinite Curfew in Aligarh After Violence

BK0712170990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Siani, Delhi Gate, and Kothwali police station areas of Aligarh this afternoon, following violent incidents.

According to the state home secretary in Lucknow, the incident was sparked off when an unruly mob engaged in stone-throwing at the Kothwali police station area. The police opened fire to disperse the mob which led to the death of two persons and injury to seven others. The home secretary said some miscreants stabbed a PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary] constable and snatched away his rifle. Additional police force has been rushed to the town to maintain law and order. The situation is reported to be tense.

Army To Maintain Order

BK0812162690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was imposed in the entire city of Aligarh today following incidents of arson, firing, and brickbatting. The Army has been called out to assist the civil administration for maintaining law and order. Thirty persons have been arrested in this connection. With six casualties reported today from the city, the death toll in violent incidents has risen to 15. An official spokesman said in Lucknow that four passengers were killed when the Delhi-bound Gomati Express [train] was stopped by an unruly mob near Aligarh railway station this afternoon. Two persons are reported killed in separate incidents in the curfew-bound areas.

The situation in Badaun City is also reported to be tense following some stabbing incidents. Additional police force has been deployed there to maintain law and order. The situation in the curfew-bound areas of (Ganj Dhundwara) Town in Etah District is reported peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported during the past 24 hours. Three hundred and twenty-six persons have been taken into custody in connection with various violent incidents. Patrolling by paramilitary forces is continuing in the affected areas.

Shoot-on-Sight Orders Issued

BK0912161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the Aligarh District administration has issued shoot-at-sight orders in the curfew-bound Aligarh City. With the two casualties reported from the area today, the death toll in violent incidents has risen to 29. The state home secretary told newsmen in Lucknow this evening that 125 persons have been arrested in connection with violent incidents. He described the situation as tense, but under control.

Contingents of army deployed in some curfew-bound areas are assisting the civil administration in maintaining law and order. Pickets of paramilitary forces posted in the communally sensitive areas are maintaining a round-the-clock strict vigil over the situation.

Meanwhile, the Aligarh University has been closed sine die and the students have been asked to vacate the hostel.

The situation in the curfew-bound area of (Ganj Dhundwara) of Etah District remained peaceful today. Some incidents of arson and firing were reported from Kashganj town last night. Police patrolling has been intensified in the affected areas.

Kashmiris Used as Porters by Militants

BK0912100890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Four arrested Pakistani-trained militants have said that Islamabad uses Kashmiri youths as coolies for transporting arms and ammunition into Kashmir Valley for subversive and terrorist activities. Religious sentiments and poverty of the innocent people of Kashmir are exploited for the purpose. The militants say that they got disillusioned and while returning to the valley via Gulmarg they surrendered to the Indian Army and handed over the arms which they were carrying to deposit at a hideout for future use. The youths have appealed to their brothers in the valley not to fall into the trap of the motivators.

Prime Minister on Center-State Relations, Unrest

BK0912164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has asked the Orissa Government to go ahead in utilizing 85 crore rupees so far made available for relief and rehabilitation of the flood and cyclone-affected people in Ganjam District. Mr. Chandra Shekhar told this to newsmen at Bhubaneswar immediately after returning from an hour-long aerial survey of the affected areas. Later, the prime minister also talked to the people at (Akka). Mr. Chandra Shekhar clarified that he had announced an assistance of 75 lakh rupees on the spot from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Out of this, 25 lakh rupees will be spent for the rehabilitation of the artisan and 50 lakh for repairing damaged school and college buildings.

Giving his impression of the affected areas, Mr. Chandra Shekhar told newsmen that the situation is very bad and devastation has been enormous. The government and the people, he said, should do everything possible for the victims of the flood and cyclone. Road bridges have collapsed affecting transportation and paddy, and sugar cane crops have been damaged. He assured the state government that the center will provide all help within its financial constraints. He, however, admitted that the assistance given so far is not adequate as there is not enough money in the Natural Calamities Relief Fund. The World Bank will have to be approached for assistance, the prime minister added.

On center-state relations, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said no state government should have any apprehension that it will be toppled as long as it works within the framework of the Constitution.

When a newsman cited imposition of president's rule in Assam, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] Government was not in a position to restore law and order in the state and the center had no alternative.

On his ongoing talks on Punjab, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is trying to ascertain the opinions of all sections on measures to bring normalcy in the state.

On the Bofors gun deal issue, the prime minister observed that it was a case of corruption and anyone found guilty will be punished. When a correspondent pointed out the National Front's demand for a quick probe, Mr. Chandra Shekhar asked: How long will it survive on the Bofors issue?

On the price rise, the prime minister said the center is thinking of some measures to bring down prices. The supply position of essential commodities will be improved. The prime minister said the Planning Commission will be reconstituted in a day or two.

President Appeals for End to Violence

BK1012165190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The president has appealed to the people indulging in group clashes in different parts of the country to give up the path of violence. Mr. Venkataraman said the people must not go against the government which they had themselves established. He was inaugurating the centenary celebration of the Umakant Academy at Agartala in Tripura this evening. He said the people must abide by the law of the land voluntarily. He said if turmoil is allowed to continue, no development will take place. The president who arrived in Agartala this morning on a two-day visit to Tripura will inaugurate Manu Chaumanu-Govindbari border road tomorrow.

Pakistan-Trained Militants Arrested in Kashmir

BK0712171890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, security forces today arrested 38 subvesives, including three hardcore terrorists. One of them has been identified as the chief commander of an outlawed outfit operating in Badgam and Sopor areas. Ten of those arrested are confirmed Pakistan-trained militants. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from their possession.

Army Units Deploy Near Pakistani Border

BK1112044090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The process of deployment of Army a few kilometers behind the Border Security Force along the international border with Pakistan began yesterday to check infiltration by militants and smuggling of arms from across the border. The Army has also begun exercises in sensitive areas of the border districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ferozepore, Bhatinda, and Faridkot in Punjab. The exercises mainly include patrolling operations. These steps have been taken by the center in the wake of increased number of killings in the state and following the discussions by the prime minister with leaders various political parties recently.

10 Persons, 8 'Militants', Killed in Punjab

BK1112093890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] In Punjab, 10 persons, including eight militants, were killed in separate incidents last night. Three militants were gunned down by their rivals near Kathunangal village in Amritsar District. Their bullet-ridden bodies were recovered this morning. A hard-core militant identified as Gurtej Singh and his accomplice committed suicide by consuming cyanide when surrounded by the security forces after being encountered in Bhatinda District.

More Hyderabad Curfews Imposed After Violence

BK0912063990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] In Hyderabad, curfew was imposed in three more police station areas. With this the total areas brought under curfew raised up to 30. There has been no relaxation of the curfew today. The Army staged flag march in the curfew-bound areas this morning. Police opened fire during the last night to control violent mobs.

Meanwhile, state government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident. The death toll in the violent incident raised to 18 according to official sources. Four hundred antisocial elements were arrested yesterday.

Legislators, Others Arrested in Hyderabad

BK1012094190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the law and order situation in the old city of Hyderabad continues to be under control. No untoward incident has been reported since last night. Flag marches are continuing in the sensitive areas. Rounding up of antisocial elements is continuing. A special police control room has been set up to monitor the situation. Steps have been taken to arrange door-to-door supply of essential commodities in different disturbed localities in a phased manner.

Five members of the state assembly, along with one former MLA [member of Legislative Assembly], and 10 corporators of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation were taken into preventive custody in Hyderabad today.

Arrested Man Plans To Blow Up Ayodhya Shrine

BK0912151190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] In Ayodhya, about 1,000 kar sevaks [volunteers to build a temple], including 20 women, courted arrest on the fourth day of satyagraha today. Those who courted arrest in the peaceful satyagraha include Mr. Girdhari

Lal Bhargav, MP [member of parliament] from Rajasthan. The arrested kar sevaks have been sent to Kanpur and Tonda. An official spokesman told newsmen in Lucknow this evening that two persons carrying explosives managed to enter the disputed complex of Ram Janmabhhoomi-Babri Masjid. The police deployed in the complex arrested one person while the other managed to escape under the cover of darkness. During the interrogation, the arrested person said that he had plans to blow up the complex. The chief minister has announced a reward of 1,000 rupees each to the two CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] constables who arrested the person. The police also recovered 20 sticks of dynamite with their detonators from the arrested person. A strict vigil is being kept on the situation. The district magistrate of Faizabad told newsmen that about 65 antisocial elements have been arrested so far. All educational institutions in Faizabad District will remain closed till the 12th of this month.

Police Open Fire in Ahmedabad; Curfew Imposed

BK0912155090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew was imposed in the Daryapur police station area of the old city of Ahmedabad today following some violent incidents. Two persons were killed and nine injured in police firing. Two police personnel were also injured when an unruly mob attacked them. The situation is reported to be under control.

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Resigns

BK1012130590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Mr. Arjun Singh has submitted his resignation. According to official sources, he sent his resignation letter to the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, in New Delhi. The president, who is away to Tripura, will return to the capital on Thursday. Mr. Arjun Singh took over as the lieutenant governor of Delhi on the 14th of December last year.

Iran

Velayati on Gulf, Relations With France

PM1012155290 Paris LE FIGARO in French 8-9 Dec 90 p4

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Remi Favret in Paris—date not given]

[Text] [Favret] How do you view Saddam Husayn's decision to release the hostages?

[Velayati] It is a positive step. There is no justification for detaining foreign citizens against their will, especially since they are civilians.

[Favret] What is your position on the ultimatum issued to Iraq by UN Resolution 678?

[Velayati] We firmly believe in the need to solve the Persian Gulf crisis by peaceful means. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the resolutions adopted by the Security Council. We think that if all the countries implement these resolutions, Iraq will have no choice but to withdraw from Kuwait.

[Favret] Iran has strengthened its military force along the border with Iraq. Are you worried by the possibility of a military option?

[Velayati] No, that is not true. The number of troops is not significant.

[Favret] Are you pursuing the normalization of your relations with Baghdad?

[Velayati] From the start we have said that the two problems—the Iran-Iraq normalization and our position on the Persian Gulf crisis—were not linked. We are opposed to the occupation of Kuwait and we ask Iraq to withdraw completely. We do not think that this should affect the restoration of our relations with Iraq. Many countries have maintained relations with Baghdad. This does not mean that they do not respect the UN resolutions.

[Favret] What would the use of force against Iraq mean for Iran?

[Velayati] Iran will not take part in any war against Iraq or against any other country in the region. We will remain outside. And, as I have said, we will seek a peaceful solution. But if war breaks out it will be a real threat to the whole region. The Gulf area is small and very sensitive, hundreds of thousands heavily armed soldiers are deployed there. A war would produce a disastrous situation.

[Favret] You have discussed the Gulf crisis with the French leadership. What do you think of their position?

[Velayati] I have found that the French Government also believes in a peaceful settlement. At the same time it does not accept that the Iraqis should remain in Kuwait. That is a balanced position.

[Favret] Do you think that you have cleared up the remaining problems between Paris and Tehran?

[Velayati] This visit was made at Mr. Dumas' invitation, returning his visit to Tehran. Iran and France have a long tradition of friendly relations, although there have been some fluctuations over the past 10 years. For about two years our two countries have worked to restore the quality of our bilateral relations. From this viewpoint Mr. Dumas' visit to Tehran was a turning point and I think that the visit I am now making is also a positive step.

[Favret] What is the position on the financial dispute between France and Iran?

[Velayati] Our deputies at our foreign ministries met on Thursday evening. They have been given instructions and will continue to negotiate until this problem is solved. My deputy will remain in Paris for a few days to work with Mr. Sheer, the Quai d'Orsay secretary general. The two countries are in agreement on removing this final obstacle.

[Favret] In what spheres do you expect cooperation from France?

[Velayati] Heavy industry, oil, petrochemicals, and energy production. But I am not here to negotiate contracts, just to prepare the political ground. The industrial chiefs will come later.

[Favret] In retrospect, what made it possible to dispel the hostility between our two countries caused by the Gordji affair, terrorism, and the hostage question?

[Velayati] What has happened is the result of mutual efforts. Our two countries shared the desire to solve the problems.

[Favret] Was the presidential pardon for Anis Naqqash last July one of those problems?

[Velayati] That was an important step.

Announces Friendship Society

LD0712203690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, announced after a meeting with Mr. Alain Poher, the president of the French Senate, that the Iran-France friendship society is to be set up in the Islamic Consultative Majlis.

According to AFP, the French Senate president also issued a statement in that regard, and specified that the initiative to set up the Iran-France friendship society will materialize his aspirations on the resumption of bilateral relation.

Sudanese Leader Al-Bashir Arrives for Talks

LD1012143590 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir arrived here Monday on a 4-day official visit at the invitation of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During his stay, the Sudanese leader is to hold talks with high ranking officials including Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on bilateral relations, and regional and international issues.

General al-Bashir's visit is considered effective in promoting Tehran-Khartoum ties and mutual cooperation in economic, cultural and political fields.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani greeted General al-Bashir and his delegation at Mehrabad international airport.

General al-Bashir told reporters at Mehrabad airport that he should have made the visit to the Islamic Republic "much earlier", and expressed hope that his trip would be an "effective step" towards improving bilateral relations.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who received the Sudanese leader noted that the people of Iran and Sudan are both Muslims and thus interested in the rule of Islam. He called this fact a "good ground" for activating mutual ties.

However, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said relations between Iran and Sudan were not consistent in the past, "but with the visit of General Bashir and his entourage to Tehran these ties may well become satisfactory."

The Sudanese leader is accompanied by his ministers of foreign affairs, agriculture, irrigation, education, commerce, housing and labour and a numer of other high ranking officials.

Speaks at Banquet

LD1012221190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] At a banquet given on Monday night by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the occasion of the arrival of Mr. Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council, and his accompanying delegation, the two sides emphasized greater cooperation between Iran and Sudan on the basis of bilateral interests and common factors.

According to the Central News Unit, at this ceremony, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf region, said: Bearing in mind the conditions and consequences of arrogant forces in the region and problems arising from the occupation of Kuwait, we hope that in the talks to be held with Mr. Umar al-Bashir, we would be able to move toward a peaceful solution to this problem and rid the people of the region from the scourge of a disastrous war.

Then, Mr. Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council, expressed delight at being in Iran and said: The Islamic revolution of Iran lit the light of hope in the hearts of Muslims and all the oppressed in the world, and became a model for the oppressed to follow so that they may arrive at their legal rights. He also said: We ourselves will follow this path in Sudan and will struggle for the revival of Islam in Africa, since the link-point of the national revolution of Sudan and the Islamic revolution of Sudan is the holy slogan of Islam.

Mr. Umar al-Bashir, remarking that we have fixed our eyes on the day when the borders between Muslim countries become one, said: We call for a common

Islamic passport [gozarnameh] which will enable Muslims to travel within Islamic borders without any hindrances.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Lebanon's Fadlallah

LD0812214290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the prominent Lebanese clerics, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. He submitted a report on the latest Lebanese and regional developments to the president. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his part, rendered the necessary guidances with regards to the issues discussed.

Lebanese, Palestinian Visitors Hold Meetings

With Radio, TV Official

LD0812115590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] A number of prominent Lebanese 'ulema and Palestinian dignitories visited the foreign broadcasting unit of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and met Mr. Shahidi, the deputy director of that organization and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

The Central News Unit reports that the meeting, was attended by Colonel Abu-Musa, secretary general of the Revolutionary Fatah Movement; Shaykh Mahir Hamud member of the Union of Lebanese Muslim 'Ulema; Abu-Hisham, member of the Revolutionary Hizballah Movement, and a number of other Palestinian and Lebanese figures. Col. Abu-Musa presented a detailed analysis about Palestinian issues, the connection between those issues and the Persian Gulf developments, and stressed the necessity for extensive struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

With Majles Speaker Karrubi

LD1012113990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] A number of the leaders of the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim revolutionary groups, participants in the Islamic conference on Palestine, met and conferred with Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, before noon today.

According to a Central News Unit report, Husayn al-Musawi, one of the Lebanese Hizballah leaders; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Aziz 'Awdah, and Dr. Fathi Shaqaqhi, leaders of the popular uprising of Palestine; Ahmad Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [-General Command]; and Mr. Mu'anna, a Palestinian resistance fighter, also had separate meetings with the Majles speaker. In those meetings, the Lebanese and the Palestinian dignitaries commented on the active role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the scene of the struggles and the uprising of the Palestinian people, reported on the situation in Lebanon and the occupied territories, the trend of the popular struggles against the Jerusalem-occupying regime, and the problems of the martyrs' families.

Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, for his part, stressed that the revolutionary movements must change the Palestinian popular movement from a limited regional uprising to a global uprising. He added: With regard to the Palestinian and the Lebanese issues, the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly continued its revolutionary policy, and the relevant authorities, in keeping with the objectives of our departed imam, will pursue their policies in that regard.

Paper on International Bodies' Biased Reports

NC1012201690 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Nov 90 p 2

[Political commentary by 'Ali Asghar Faramarzian: "The Need To Explain the Nature of the Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International in the Mass Media"]

[Excerpts] In His exalted name.

It cannot be denied that international organizations always need specific goals in order to continue to function. The human rights violations are very obvious in all the countries of the world. However, the extent of the countries' political, propagandistic and economic strength plays a major role in whether these countries are portrayed favorably in such cases, sometimes even by these same organizations. [passage omitted]

It is imperative to pay attention to the discrepancies between the realities of the world and the realities of our revolution, against which there is still poison in the hearts of the international and other organizations. In addition, it is also necessary to pay attention to the fact that the "pioneers" of the international plots have embarked on a relentless and extensive campaign to attain their final objective of domination over the whole world. This paints a sad picture for the countries which are used to attain this objective, and the fact that they sanction this is utterly unforgivable.

Even though after what has been mentioned above it appears difficult to write anything or answer the report by Mr. Galindo Pohl, it is nevertheless gratifying to mention certain farsighted measures which were taken, such as the opposition to the presence of the representative of the Human Rights Commission including a students' protest march, and the opinions aired by numerous esteemed Majles deputies of the Islamic Republic of Iran which may help to open this subject's closed door.

The revolutionary Foreign Ministry statement testifies to the doubts of the esteemed Foreign Ministry officials, and it may be worth mentioning that if such official and nonofficial statements were issued from time to time it would have been very effective. [passage omitted]

Mr. Galindo Pohl's report following the acceptance of the resolution [not further explained] provided the most important pretext to the counterrevolution, and it is obvious that this report, in light of the political atmosphere prevailing in the region, is not meaningless. The Foreign Ministry statement is also not the last word. It cannot be denied that there is an urgent need to write about the true nature of the Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International.

Basij Chief 'Ready' To Move Forces to Palestine

LD0912193390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Afshar, the commander of the Basij [mobilization] Resistance Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, announced: If the grounds are to be prepared for the dispatch of basij members to the Islamic country of Palestine, this force will be ready to fight side by side the Muslim and risen people of Palestine against the Zionist occupiers. According to a report of the Central News Unit from Ilam, while stating the above he added: In view of the strong desire expressed by countless numbers of the selfless basijis to participate in the Islamic uprising of the Muslim Palestinian combatants, if the regional countries were to act instead of chanting slogans to enable us to move our basij forces through their territory, we will go to assist the Palestinians.

Editorial Views Palestinian Actions, Violence

NC0712132390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Momentum in Anti-Zionist Struggle"]

[Text] Events related to the Palestinian issue have been developing rapidly during the past few weeks and more since the Zionist massacre of twenty-nine Arabs at the Haram al-Sharif on Oct. 8, 1990. They include the killing of Egypt's second man in command, Parliament Speaker Rifa't al-Mahjub (Oct.13), the revenge killings of four Zionists by a Palestinian youth, 'Umar Abu-Sirhan (Oct. 28) and the shooting death of Zionist racist Rabbi Meir Kahana in New York (Nov. 5).

But the momentum of the anti-Zionist/imperialist movement was also quite visible during recent days. On Sunday, a teenage girl member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP), blew herself up near a Zionist military patrol in South Lebanon killing twelve Israeli troops. Almost simultaneously, near the Israeli-Egyptian border, a lone Egyptian undertook a similar action, ambushing Zionist army troops which resulted in the death of four Israeli soldiers. During the early hours of the same day, five Lebanese guerrillas tried to infiltrate the Israeli coast from south Lebanon. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command has issued a statement that its fighters were aboard the boat.

The current inflamed situation, no doubt, is an expression of the Muslims' growing frustration over the way the Palestinian question is being overlooked. Egyptian political analyst Tahsin Bashir who linked the recent attacks to the Persian Gulf crisis, had this to say: "There are hundreds of thousands of American troops in the region to convince Saddam Husayn to withdraw from his illegal occupation of Kuwait... You are so serious with Saddam, why not Israel?"

Another point worthy of mention is the fact that the heroic actions of recent days were perpetrated by previously unknown devout Muslims.

They also represent the younger generation, their age ranging from 16 to the early 30's. Abu-Sirhan is nineteen and the martyred Lebanese girl Fadwa Hasan Ghanim was only sixteen. And while the authors of the attacks carried out in Egypt are alleged to be young Palestinian revolutionaries, many of them are certainly Egyptians rejecting Cairo's closeness with the Zionist government. Likewise, most disconcerting for the Israelis is their belief that the latest attacks are not the work of their old enemy, the PLO, but of Muslim militants.

Individual incidents such as the Sunday shooting at Elat and Al-Sayyid Nusayr's killing of Kahana, are symptoms of the wrong policy pursued by leaders of liberation movements. The recent actions of this young breed of Muslim militants are alternatives to the failure of Palestinian and Arab leaders, whose weaknesses have brought about the present impasse in the region; whose battle cries have been subdued by personal interests and political bickerings. As for the PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, time is running out. Critics of his policy are becoming vociferous among Palestinian ranks. Indeed, he offered everything but gained nothing in return.

An important key to understanding the recent events lies in seeing the extent to which the oppressed Muslims in Palestine have managed to move towards their goals. Though dispersed, they remain united—a turning point in the politics of the Palestinian diaspora. Whether in Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine or elsewhere, it will remain impossible to limit and control their conviction and courage—even with the most lethal weapons in the world. Israel is like a shackled giant when it comes to these retaliatory actions. It does not matter whether the assailant is an Egyptian border policeman, a Palestinian construction worker or Lebanese teenager. They feel the way the rest of the Palestinians do.

'Zionists' Making Palestine 'Second Rate Issue'

NC0712145490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Nov 90 pp 1,16

[Hamid Safari editorial: "Palestine and the Future of the Intifadah"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] One of the Zionists' intentions is to portray the "intifadah" as a second rate issue in the Middle East crisis, and the current crisis in the Persian Gulf is being used to reach this objective. Thus any ill repercussions that the Persian Gulf crisis can have

in the form of overshadowing the incidents inside the occupied territories and thus giving the Zionists a free hand in massacring the Muslim Palestinians should be avoided, and the Muslims should unify and agree to grant priority to a solution of the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

Today arrogance should be shown how the time for its bullying has passed and how the current conditions demand that the West refrain from involving itself in long and bloody conflicts. If an offensive style of diplomacy is adopted, the Americans' fear of a growing opposition to the presence of military forces in the region can place them at a dreadful crossroad. This will make the West realize that if the intention is regional security, then all the various elements causing insecurity should be brought under control before the outbreak of any type of war; otherwise there will be no hope for regional security and the West must prepare itself for very bloody and long wars. [passage omitted]

Minister Returns From Cuban, European Talks

LD0912071790 Tehran IRNA in English 0415 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Health Minister Dr. Iraj Fazel and the accompanying delegation returned home Saturday night [8 Dec] after paying a three-day official visit to Cuba.

In an interview upon arrival, Fazel said that during his stay in Havana a protocol was signed on Iran-Cuba cooperation in various medical fields.

The minister also said that he has had a lengthy talk with the Cuban leader Fidel Castro discussing situation in Iran and in the region.

Fazel who left Tehran for Havana last Saturday at the invitation of his Cuban counterpart, on his way back home had stopovers in Paris and Bonn where he reached medical agreements with French and German officials.

Afghan Drug Traffickers Arrested in Esfahan

LD1012185490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] During the first eight days of the Zafar-4 operations, 10 drugs trafficking networks were smashed and 9,632 addicts and 857 smugglers were arrested. The Islamic Revolution committee, while announcing this, described the outcome of the first phase of these operations in various cities as follows:

A notorious network of drug traffickers was tracked down and the leader of the gang, on his arrest, confessed to the distribution of eight tonnes of opium so far.

In Esfahan, a gang of Afghan drug traffickers was destroyed, 73 gang members were arrested, and 32 kg of opium residue were seized. Also in Esfahan, 15 members of a gang of drug traffickers that has operated for some time were arrested and one kg of opium was seized from them.

In Qazvin, a gang of drug traffickers was smashed, eight drug smugglers were arrested, and two kg of opium were seized from them.

In Khorasan, eight merchants of death were arrested and 65 kg of narcotics were seized.

*Velayati Said To Ask To Move Khomeyni's Body

91AS0258C London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] The American newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, reporting on 'Ali Akbar Velayati's trip to Baghdad, wrote that in his talks with Iraqi officials he asked permission to move Khomeyni's body for burial from Tehran to Najaf, Khomeyni's place of exile for several years.

This American newspaper added: Another request by Velayati was the identification of the grave of Mohammad Sadr, the leader of the Shiites supporting Khomeyni in Iraq, who was shot by firing squad by order of Saddam Husayn. The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR confirmed that the Tehran regime, in view of the Iraqi government's unhelpful position at the present time, has placed Iraq under additional pressure by making difficult requests.

The purpose of transferring Khomeyni's body from Iran to Najaf, which is being disclosed for the first time, is confirmation of the rumors that circulated in Iran for a short time after Khomeyni's death, according to which Khomeyni willed that he be buried in Najaf after his death. When they buried Khomeyni's body in Behesht-e Zahra and quickly built him an elaborate tomb with a gold dome, in reality they were trying to move Najaf to Behesht-e Zahra, and that rumor was forgotten.

*Pakistani Doctors Providing Medical Services

91AS0259L London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] To obtain some of the health care and medical personnel the country needs, the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education intends, as in the past, to utilize the services of Pakistani physicians.

The above information was conveyed to the Pakistani ambassador recently by Dr. Iraj Fazel, the Islamic Republic's minister of health, treatment, and medical education. The Islamic Republic's minister of health, treatment, and medical education said to the ambassador of Pakistan: During the imposed war, when countless numbers of our specialists had left the country and we had an extensive need for physicians, Pakistani physicians rendered worthy service in Iran, and we will make use of their services as in the past.

During his visit with the Pakistani ambassador, while exchanging views on how to expand relations in medicine, medical education, and treatment, Dr. Iraj Fazel agreed that the Pakistani ambassador in Tehran should hold talks with this ministry's education, research, and treatment deputies to expand bi-lateral relations between the two countries. The Islamic Republic's minister of health, treatment, and medical education predicted that the talks between the two countries would lead to the expansion of cooperation in the areas of medical education, exchanges of professors and students, and the procurement of medicine.

*Trade With Afghanistan Expanding

91AS0259K London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] Despite the extensive differences between the Tehran Islamic regime and the Afghanistan regime and the Islamic Republic's continued military assistance to the Afghan Mujahidin, early last week a trade delegation from Afghanistan led by 'Abdul-Ahmad, this nation's deputy minister of commerce, went to Khorasan Province to hold economic talks. The report on this sudden trip, which was confirmed by the Khorasan general trade manager, surprised political observers in the area.

According to reports from Mashhad, after two days in this city and after visiting economic installations in Khorasan province, the Afghan delegation left Mashhad for Kabul. In its report on this trip, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY announced that when preparations and the necessary resources are provided, two commercial trade expositions will be held by the Islamic Republic and Afghanistan in the cities of Kabul and Mashhad. The agency added: According to agreements reached, two small markets will be formed at the border between the two nations to exchange goods. In its report on the trip by the Afghan minister of commerce to Khorasan, the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN, quoting this province's general trade manager, wrote: During the Afghan commercial delegation's two-day trip to Mashhad, preparations to export goods from the two countries and how the merchants of Afghanistan and Mashhad can cooperate through the chambers of commerce were discussed and studied, and the Afghan commercial delegation declared its willingness to purchase a number of needed items. The Khorasan Province general trade manager told reporters: In the event of full cooperation and the designation of a time, those goods that can be exported will be exchanged between the countries.

*Increase in Trade With Italy Reported

91AS0259J London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] While trade between the Islamic Republic and Italy totaled 734 billion liras at mid-year last year (1989), this figure has increased significantly in the first half of the current year, increasing to about 1,280 billion liras. A comparison of the two figures shows an increase of 55 percent. According to a report published by the Italian National Foreign Trade Institute, last year (1989) this country did a total of 1870 billion liras in trade with the Islamic Republic. In the above statistical report, a summary of which was published in the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN, it says that in the first six months of the current Christian year Italy imported about 660.132 billion liras in goods from the Islamic Republic, and that country's exports to the Islamic Republic in the same period were valued at about 620.5 billion liras. Italy's imports from the Islamic Republic were made up chiefly of a significant quantity of crude oil. Currently, after Libya the Islamic Republic is Italy's largest supplier of crude oil. In return for purchasing crude oil from the Islamic Republic, every year Italy delivers to this country large quantities of its industrial products, including food, industrial machinery, electrical equipment, and other consumer items needed by Iran. In addition to exporting crude oil to Italy, the Islamic Republic also delivers to this country significant quantities of hand-woven wool carpets, caviar, dried fruits, hides, and some of its mining products.

*Exchange of Ambassadors With Bahrain Reported

91AS0259I London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Relations between the Islamic Republic and the government of Bahrain, which were reduced to the level of charge d'affaires nine months ago because of the Islamic government's interference in Bahrain's internal affairs, will soon be raised to the level of ambassador.

Sheikh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister of Bahrain, who visited Tehran last week, discussed the expansion of bilateral relations with Velayati, the Islamic foreign minister.

After the foreign minister of Bahrain's visit to Tehran, it was announced that in the near future, a direct telephone line will be established between Bahrain and Iran.

The Islamic Republic's foreign minister is to attend future meetings of the seven member nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, of which Bahrain is a member.

*Paper on Exchange of Remaining Prisoners

91AS0259H London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Differences between Iran and Iraq over the exchange of war prisoners have again cooled Iran-Iraq relations, and have even led to the closing of the 1200-kilometer border.

According to the London newspaper INDEPENDENT, even the border at Shalamcheh, near Khorramshahr, where 50,000 Iranian residents of Kuwait crossed into Iran in August, has now been closed. The newspaper INDEPENDENT writes that the Iranians are now refusing to return 17,000 Iraqi prisoners because they believe that there are still 20,000 unregistered Iranian prisoners in Iraq, and that the Iraqi government is keeping them for no reason.

The INDEPENDENT's report on the closing of the border between Iran and Iraq was published at a time when the United Nations peacekeeping forces had completed their mission and left the border areas between the two countries.

The relationship between the Iraqi regime and the Islamic Republic, which cooled after a short honeymoon, has deeper roots than the matter of exchanging war prisoners. Studies show that if the Islamic Republic regime had acted on its original arrangements to help Iraq break the United Nations economic embargo, the Iraqi regime would not have obstructed the prisoner exchange, and there was the possibility that the marking of the borders would have begun quickly, but so far the Islamic Republic regime has avoided openly violating the economic embargo against Iraq.

Differences of opinion have emerged concerning the number of unregistered Iranians who are still being kept in Iraq. Although two weeks ago Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran, the head of the Iraqi Prisoners Office in the Islamic Foreign Ministry, announced that documents show that there are 24,000 unregistered Iranian prisoners in Iraqi camps, last week Hojjat ol-Eslam Narabi, Khamene'i's representative for released prisoner affairs, announced that there are only 2,500 of these prisoners.

Pakistan

Iraqi Move To Release Foreigners Welcomed

BK0812160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed Iraq's decision to let all the foreigners stranded in Kuwait and Iraq leave those two countries. In a statement issued in Islamabad today, the Government of Pakistan has expressed the hope that the decision to allow the foreigners to return to their homes will be prelude to a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. The Pakistani Government has also expressed the hope that the Iraqi forces will completely and unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait and that the legitimate government of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah will be restored.

Sharif on Sindh Problem, U.S. Aid, Gulf

BK0912153990 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Dec 90 pp 1,4

[From Shamim Shamsi and M.B. Kaiharo]

[Excerpt] Sukkur, Dec 8—Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif said on Saturday all resources would be mobilised to make Sindh the most developed province of the country, and concrete steps taken to get rid of the backwardness which had a strong grip over the province since last over 43 years.

He was addressing a public meeting at Khangarh, about 140 kilometres from here.

He said it was not a hollow slogan but a promise that the province would be developed in a manner never even envisaged in the past.

The peasants, the labourers and other poor sections of Sindh would get their just rights denied to them in the past, assured the Prime Minister.

He said his second biggest mission was to restore peace in the province and provide full protection to the people. The most worrying thing was that after a hard day's labour, the people did not feel secure even in their homes at night, he said, pledging that the Government, with the coooperation of the people, would continue its fight against the terrorists and the tyrants till Sindh once again became the land of peace.

Mr Nawaz Sharif said he would try his best to ameliorate the conditions of the peasants and the poor people of Sindh, and directed Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali that all Government-owned agricultural lands be distributed to poor peasants so that they could feel that they had equal rights in Pakistan.

He further said it was his firm belief that Pakistan could not become stronger till the level of development was brought at par in all the provinces.

Mr Nawaz Sharif said he had assured the Chief Minister of Centre's all out support and help in mobilising the resources necesary to mitigate the feeling of insecurity.

Stressing the need to maintain law and order in Sindh, he said development of the province was linked with peace and fraternal feelings among the people.

He said the Government knew that the problems in Sindh were enormous. Majority of the people here were engaged in agricultural activity but were not getting better returns for their yields, he remarked, adding that the Government was striving that development was made at every level and all got equal share of its fronts [as published].

The Prime Minister announced Rs [rupees] 50 million for metalling the roads in the district, while for the District and the Union councils, he announced Rs 20 million grant.

He assured that Sui Gas would be provided in the area in the near future.

Stressing the need to raise the standard of education, he said it be spread to every nook and corner of the district. In this context, he announced the establishment of a Cadet college in Sukhur. In the college, the wards of peasants and poor people would get appropriate quota he added.

He said the people of Sindh were hardworking and "I wish that by their toil and labour they make the province exemplary and the people "live a dignified life."

The natural and other resources in Sindh, he pointed out, were enormous and what was needed was to judiciously exploit these.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Jam Sadiq Ali claimed that he had entered into an accord with the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] for the betterment of the people of Sindh. He reiterated that he released Mr G.M. Syed because the case against him was "false".

He claimed that the PPP had no programme and accused his former party of "inciting" the people.

Syed Ghous Ali Shah, Sindh IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] President, said the Prime Minister by starting his first tour of the country from Sindh had nullified the propaganda that he was an enemy of Sindh.

Sindh Governor Mahmoud A. Haroon, Federal and Sindh Ministers and MNAs [Members of National Assembly] and MPAs, [Members of Provincial Assembly] President and Secretary of the PML and the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] workers were among those present.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Earlier, on arrival here, he told newsmen that during his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shakhar in Male he had made it clear that, Pakistan's policy on Kashmir dispute was "rigid" and no "flexibility" was possible.

He said this issue would be at the top of the agenda of the meeting of the forthcoming Foreign Secreraries of the two countries.

He said the foreign aid question would be resolved through certain appropriate measures, while keeping high the honour of the nation.

He said Pakistan's on the Gulf crisis was clear and that Iraq should pull out its forces from Kuwait and vacate the occupation [Sentence as Published]. Pakistan, he added, with the collaboration of other countries, was playing its due role because Pakistan desired to keep this region free of war.

Regarding the restoration of peace in Sindh, he stressed, the Federation would provide every possible assistance. However, he remarked that the situation was fast returning to normalcy, and lauded Sindh Chief Minister's efforts in this regard. [passage omitted]

Aid Ultimatum on Nuclear Program Rejected

OW0812025390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0022 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 8 KYODO—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Friday the people of Pakistan would eat "dry bread" rather than beg for foreign aid, suspended due to Pakistan's nuclear program.

"Any aid made conditional to changes in Pakistan's policies, relating to foreign or security issues, would not be acceptable to Pakistan," the 41-year-old industrialist prime minister said in a speech on radio and television, marking the completion of the first month of his new government.

Sharif's speech also reflected the growing gap between Pakistan and the United States over the suspension of military and economic assistance on charges that it is engaged in the manufacture of a nuclear weapon.

The United States wants Pakistan to give up its nuclear program to be eligible to receive U.S. aid, and a senior U.S. official is currently on a three-day visit to Pakistan to discuss bilateral issues.

A Japanese official mission is also due in Pakistan on Saturday to identify worthy projects for aid and to discuss a Pakistani request for 500 million dollars in emergency aid to cushion the impact of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Pakistan Army Chief Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg set the tone for the Pakistani leaders on the issue December 3 in his speech at a defense seminar, when he referred to the possibility of other nations also joining the "strategic defiance of Iraq."

"Such strategic defiance is very important for Pakistan, in view of the kind of threat that we are facing today," he said.

Sharif asked the people of Pakistan to tighten their belts and prepare themselves for trials and tests.

He said he would prefer to beg for money from people in Pakistan rather than from people abroad.

Any aid designed to influence the government's policies would not be acceptable to the people of Pakistan, he said.

He hinted that his government might set up a "self-reliance fund" to deal with the situation caused by the Gulf crisis and the halt in U.S. assistance.

Bangladesh Air Chief Ends Visit, Departs

BK0812160790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Bangladesh Air Force chief Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed left Karachi today for home, ending an eight-day visit to Pakistan. The chief of staff for the air force, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, saw him off at the airport.

Spokesman Discusses IAEA Reactor Safeguards

BK1012171190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has clarified that criticism by the leader of the opposition in a press interview of the government's decision relating to application of International Atomic Energy Agency

[IAEA] safeguards on the miniature neutron research reactor acquired from China bears no relevance to facts and reveals a lack of comprehension of the issue. He recalled that the Foreign Office, in a statement on Thursday [6 December], had clarified that placing the reactor under safeguards was in conformity with the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program and that this routine decision was neither influenced by nor did it have any bearing on Pakistan's relations with the United States. He categorically stated that there is no international pressure on the government to place the reactor under safeguards and that placing the reactor under safeguards in no way compromises the national interest of Pakistan. The spokesman said it should also be noted that it is the normal practice to place nuclear power and nuclear research reactors under international safeguards. Pakistan's nuclear power reactor at Karachi as well as the PINSTEC [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology] research reactor are already under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Similarly, agreements with China and France regarding provision of power reactors to Pakistan stipulate that the reactors will be placed under international safeguards.

Self-Reliance Stressed; U.S. Aid Viewed

BK1012003390 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 90 p 4

[Article by Bashir Ahmed: "U.S. Aid to Pakistan"]

[Text] During the 1973 war between Arabs and Israel the Arab nations on the initiative of late King Faysal of Saudi Arabia, for the first time, employed oil as a weapon to fight and win the war. An oil ambargo was accordingly imposed by oil-producers which also hit Pakistan hard. Its fuel bill shot up enormously obliging it to undertake a peaceful nuclear programme to augment its energy resources. For the purpose, Pakistan contracted for the supply of a reprocessing plant from France. America stood in the way. France was prevailed upon to cancel the contract for the plant, on the pretext that Pakistan wanted to manufacture an Islamic bomb which will ultimately fall in Arab hands to be used against the American protege Israel.

The Carter Administration there upon suspended all economic and military aid to this country, which however, had to restore when Ronald Reagan took over as President. He perceived the strategic importance of Pakistan and wanted to shore up its defensive capability. It will be recalled that a package deal totalling $3.2 billion, coupled with supply of F-16 aircraft, was finalised eventually with President Ziaul Haq who had earlier rejected President Carter's peanut offer of $400 million to Pakistan. The US followed this course of action though: India's Indira Gandhi and her successor Rajiv Gandhi were provoked and raised a hue and cry.

The Indian leaders did not succeed in driving a wedge between Pakistan and USA as the latter would not allow any country to exercise a veto on its security policy.

The U.S. aid to Pakistan has been subject to vicissitudes from time to time. It has followed a lop ided course. In 1977 and 1979, the United States cut off aid while no other country was so penalised even though a number of them had acquired nuclear capability. India has been taking various steps to do so and actually detonated a nuclear device in 1974. It was as a result of very effective lobbying by Pakistan that the Senate Committee on Asia and Pacific in 1987 recommended that US should induce both India and Pakistan to seriously consider taking appropriate action to safeguard the region, South Asia, from nuclear proliferation. Pakistan has time and again offered India a number of proposals whereby both the countries should jointly take steps to allay fear of the world community, as also reduce tension in the region, but each time India refused to accept any such proposal. Pakistan has also offered to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) provided India does the same. India has stubeornly refused to listen to anybody. It is apparent that India cannot afford to sign the NPT because while crying hoarse in its false propaganda against Pakistan, India itself has for the last three years been stockpiling in the basements a number of bombs just a final screw away from completion and is further converting large stocks of plutonium into weapons grade fuel. The ostensible excuse is the danger from China with whom India's relations are improving day by day. It is easy for an impartial observer to see through the ruse.

President Bush has not yet signed the certificate required to release this year's aid to Pakistan of about $600 million. This is the result of a storm raised by certain anti-Pakistan, pro-India and pro-Israel Congressmen, led by Stephen Solarz, regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme. During the Reagan Presidency also such demands were made by the same lot of Congressmen, but Reagan saw through their game and issued the certificate every year, though a couple of times it was delayed for technical reasons.

Congressman Solarz is an arch-Indiaphile, who prides himself on being referred to as the "Voice of India" and who heads the House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Asia and Pacific and is once again busy riding his favourite lobby horse: bashing Pakistan and its nuclear programme. But he and others like him prefer to keep their eyes closed to India's mammoth nuclear programme which has obvious indications of being certainly not for peaceful purposes.

The US Ambassador to Pakistan, Robert Oakley, had to visit Pakistan in September though he was recessing in Washington. He came with a specific message dealing with the nuclear issue. His short sojourn in Islamabad included meetings at the Foreign Office plus the President, Prime Minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and the Chief of Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg. He had a blunt message, as follows, to deliver from the Bush Administration:

I) Pakistan should freeze nuclear activity.

II) US concern on nuclear issue is heightened due to regional tensions, particularly Pakistan-India tussle on Kashmir.

III) President Bush will find it difficult to certify that Pakistan is not engaged in nuclear weapons programme which is an annual requirement of American law. If Bush fails to provide this certificate, American aid to Pakistan can be stalled. That is certain as the US law prescribes it. This is the second formal threat from the United States to cut off aid to Pakistan within the last five months; the first was conveyed over alleged Pakistani support to Kashmiri freedom-fighters in occupied Kashmir.

The U.S. intends to undermine our security and our sovereign right to build up our defence with all means at our disposal.

What prohibited India from attacking Pakistan during Exercise Brasstacks in 1987 or during the Kashmir uprising in 1990 was the fear of Pakistan's nuclear capability a deterrent. America frowns on Pakistan while winking at nuclear weaponry processed by Israel, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico, and also shutting its eyes completely to India's developing nuclear and chemical weapons. Ambassador Oakley during his recent visit to Islamabad had in so many words threatened to cut off aid if Pakistan did not freeze its nuclear activity. In his speech to the Asian Society in Washington, September 1990, he gave expression to identical views on the subject.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has declared that Pakistan can do without foreign aid as "we are rich in resources and we must come forward to build a strong and free Pakistan." He was addressing the Pakistan community members in Abu Dhabi while returning from Saudi Arabia where he had gone to perform Umra [minor pilgrimage]. His country need not depend on foreign aid. Chief of Army Staff General Aslam Beg has reacted saying that the suspension of US aid may prove a blessing in disguise and may give the country courage to stand on its own feet. In the context of aid the country had in the past abandoned its self-respect and moved away from self-sufficiency. According to him, aid cut won't affect defence potential because the Pak army now possessed the capability to repel aggression due to the valuable and remarkable contribution of its defence industry. Nawaz Sharif is prepared to discuss the aid issue with America but "Pakistan need not depend on any aid from any country" believing in the policy of self-reliance and moving towards industrialisation.

It is abundantly clear that the nuclear issue is the principal bone of contention between Pakistan and the US, and the American Administration is under great pressure from its Congress to strictly adhere to the Pressler Amendment which forbids even import of ingredients which may be required to manufacture nuclear weapons. During Reagan's days the President's certificate giving clearance to Pakistan on its nuclear programme was sometimes delayed and aid withheld, sometime though never stopped. Even now negotiations are afoot and neither USA nor Pakistan have given up the dialogue. Pakistan is an old ally occupying a position of great strategic importance which can be vital to US interests.

I feel tempted to quote from a British economist germane to the subject in hand. "The motives of donors are not always humanitarian. 'Aid' can take a military form, it can be used to prop up an incompetent or unjust government or to buy support in cold war, nor is aid always beneficial to the recipient country. It is wasted on ill-conceived and prestige project or to cause the government simply to relax its own effort". We need to ponder these ideas seriously to decide whether to accept or reject the aid.

Pakistan has lived without American aid in the past and can do so again in future. Our leaders have made it clear that they will not cringe for aid at the cost of the country's sovereignty and instead try to collect taxes, boost exports, increase industrial production, stop luxury imports and adopt an Islamic style of simple living as embodied in the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] manifesto. This will eliminate corruption and curb inflation. We need to practise simplicity and shun ostentation. As it is, aid fosters corruption in the bureaucracy and leadership acclimatizes those who come in contact with the West to false standards of life and thereby defects them from developing their own country on realistic lines in consonance with their own values, culture and traditions. There is still time we bade farewell to foreign aid which has rent asunder the very fabric of our social, moral and economic life. If Premier Nawaz Sharif can accomplish this transformation, he will go down in history as the architect of modern, self-reliant Pakistan.

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